



Ninth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning

Edinburgh, Scotland | 9-12 September 2019

Panel Discussion (60 minutes, Brief Panel #612) ***MOOCs and Open Education in the Global South: Challenges, Successes, Opportunities***

This unique panel of experts will discuss a wide range of MOOC initiatives and open education projects in rapidly changing, highly diverse, and economically emergent countries and regions. As such, the audience will learn how MOOCs and open educational resources (OER) are impacting learners in different ways around the world. Those attending this session will have an enhanced understanding of the educational, cultural, political, and economic challenges and issues facing various stakeholders in MOOC and open education environments in the Global South. The session moderators will ask questions related to crucial challenges, key lessons learned, bright successes, and future opportunities about MOOC and OER development, implementation, and evaluation. In return, the panelists will highlight pressing issues and controversies where there presently is impassioned debate and controversy. The panelists are all contributors to an upcoming edited book on “MOOCs and Open Education in the Global South” to be published by Routledge. There are 68 contributors from 25 countries to the 30 chapters of this book. Chapter contributors come from Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific/Oceania, and the Caribbean. **Audience Interaction:** Audience polling, questioning, and awards for best questions.

Panelists:

1. Som Naidu, Pro-Vice Chancellor Flexible Learning and Director, Center for Flexible Learning, The University of the South Pacific, Fiji Islands
2. Shironica P. Karunanayaka, Professor in Educational Technology, Dean/Faculty of Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka
3. Deepak Bhartu, Open Education Design Architect, Centre for Flexible Learning, The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji Islands
4. Martha Cleveland-Innes, Professor of Educational Innovation, Athabasca University, Alberta, Canada
5. Tadinada V. Prabhakar, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK), India

Session Chairs/Moderators:

Curtis J. Bonk, Professor, Instructional Systems Technology, Indiana University
Ke Zhang, Professor, Learning Design and Technology, Wayne State University
Meina Zhu, Assistant Professor, Learning Design and Technology, Wayne State University



PCF9 Possible Panel Questions

1. Could you please introduce yourself briefly?
2. Could you please tell us about the status of MOOCs and OER in your country/education systems/institution including successful achievements and collaborations as well as the challenges?
3. What can we learn from the Global South to leverage MOOCs and OER for sustainable development?
4. Some predict that the primary focus areas of MOOCs in 2040 will target adult learners in the workforce with opportunities for professional development and job reskilling and upskilling. Embedded in these predictions are visions of MOOCs playing a role in late adulthood hobbies, entertainment interests, and career change. What's perhaps more striking, many of these people expect that Global South participants will be the majority of MOOC participants by 2040. Is any of this accurate? If so, what are the ramifications? Who wants to comment?
5. Some also predict that as part of this transformation in legitimacy and acceptance of open forms of learning and training, MOOC experiences will be increasingly reflected and expected on one's resume. In addition, they say MOOCs will also offer free and credentialed educational experiences for all secondary school academic requirements as well as the first year or two of higher education by 2025. What are your thoughts and experiences?
6. **If time permits....**Is there anything we haven't discussed terms of future directions/opportunities about MOOCs and OER development and implementation in your country/institution and in the Global South in general? Any visions we have not heard or addressed?