

Understanding the 'research game' and using it to further your own career as well as the future of SoTL

Significance, learning goals and outcomes, including methodological approach:

Database and bibliometric analysis skills will be used to explore five SoTL questions.

1) How is scholarship currently measured? The relative merits and limitations of three popular bibliometric databases (Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar) and two specific measures (impact factor and h-index) will be explored.

2) How does SoTL 'measure up' as a specific discipline? Analyses of impact factors of SoTL journals, and discipline-specific journals and conference proceedings will be compared to metrics from other disciplines. Participants will discuss possible strategies for raising SoTL's profile as a scholarly discipline.

3) What is my current standing as a scholar? Participants will have hands-on experience in looking up suitable dissemination routes for their discipline-specific as well as SoTL studies. They will also have hands-on experience in looking up their own h-index as well as the h-index of other scholars.

4) How might I more widely disseminate my scholarship? A variety of strategies for increasing the likelihood of dissemination (social media, research networks and unique researcher identifiers), and some relevant current tools, will be presented. Participants will discuss which options are most appropriate and feasible for themselves.

5) How might SoTL build its profile? The understanding and experience gained from engaging in the questions above will lead to a discussion on appropriate strategies for advancing the profile of SoTL as a legitimate and recognized form of scholarship.

In some ways SoTL is disadvantaged at doing well in the current system for measuring scholarship. However, it is hoped that a conversation among participants who have a shared understanding of how the 'research game' is currently played, combined with an awareness of other potential avenues for measurement and dissemination, may propose ideas that can realistically promote recognition of SoTL and encourage more researchers to engage in SoTL as part of their scholarly output.

More than half of the workshop time will be spent in hands-on activities and small-group discussions. All participants are encouraged to bring a laptop or similar device with internet access so they can participate in the hands-on activities (although all activities will be suitable to paired work so that those without devices also benefit). All experience levels in both SoTL and research skills are welcome.

Facilitators relevant experience:

Josephine Csete: PhD in Educational Systems Development and 20+ years experience in this field. At The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) she founded the eLearning Development and Support Section and currently coordinates the Staff Development Section.

Mei Li: MSc in Information Science with experience in Canada, UK and Hong Kong. She is a Senior Assistant Librarian at the Pao Yue-kong Library of PolyU, responsible for collection management and development.

Carmel McNaught: Emeritus Professor of Learning Enhancement and former Director of the Centre for Learning Enhancement And Research at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. See <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/clear/people/Carmel.html>.