14ᵗʰ Academic Practice and Technology Conference 2016
Co-hosted by the University of Greenwich and the London School of Economics & Political Science
at the Maritime Campus, University of Greenwich, London
Tuesday 5ᵗʰ July 2016

Call for Papers

"Mind the gap": exploring institutional practices in the post-digital age

gap/
*noun: **gap**; plural noun: **gaps***
1. *a break or hole in an object or between two objects.*
2. *a space or interval; a break in continuity.*
3. *a difference, especially an undesirable one, between two views or situations.*
4. *an opportunity*

'Mind the gap' is most commonly a warning to beware of the abyss between train and platform. This year it is also the rallying cry for the APT conference. On one hand, the word 'gap' may evoke a sense of deficit, an exploration of missing pieces; on the other, it invites an alertness to opportunity, the potential to capitalise on innovations which might have already demonstrated their worth elsewhere.

APT 2016 will focus attention on the 'gaps', real or perceived, in the contemporary educational landscape: e.g. between technology and teaching, learning and assessment, staff developers and staff practitioners, students' expectations and achievement, and individual aspirations and institutional realities.

We invite you to explore the role of academic practice and technology in identifying, avoiding, reducing or even exploiting such gaps; to share how you are 'minding the gap' yourself; to debate the impact of widening and narrowing gaps on teaching and learning; and to creatively address the tensions arising from them.

As always, the conference will provide an exciting opportunity to network with colleagues from the UK and abroad at the historic Maritime Greenwich campus, a World Heritage site.

Conference themes
APT 2016 seeks papers, proposals for innovative workshops and lightning talks that interpret the metaphor of a 'gap' in one of the more of these ways:

The digital divide: seeking ways to improve digital literacy and professional capability so that practitioners, students and institutions can make effective use of technology in academic practice and bridge the gap between expectations and aspirations in a changing educational environment; scaling innovation across disciplines and contexts.

Breaks in continuity: identifying the opportunities that technology-enhanced academic practice offers for disrupting and transforming institutional practice; addressing teaching, learning and assessment that create rifts and fractures in established practice.

Shifting boundaries: exploring how cross-institutional and cross-cultural approaches, and inter-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity can create new and challenging opportunities for learning; challenges to the status quo.

Opportunities: promoting practices, examples, case studies and innovations that have the potential to effect change and enhance staff-student relationships and/or link academia with employers. alumni and professional communities; to develop and deliver innovative technology-enhanced curricula, using technology to change the debate or find new ways to do teaching and learning; to connect and collaborate; to improve links with industry.

Differences between views: addressing the challenges and unintended consequences we risk in advocating institutional change, overcoming resistance and fear; tackling institutional structures and cultures that sit at odds with the aspirations and realities of teaching and learning today

Hiatus: engaging in critical reflection, evaluation, analytics and research to fill the gaps in our knowledge and understand better the role and impact of technology in academic practice and policy.

We also welcome papers on other themes that explore academic practice with technology through the metaphor of the 'gap'.

Closing date for submissions: **Monday 7th March 2016.** To find out more, scan the QR code or please visit **http://tiny.cc/apt16.**

Guidelines for Authors

1. Format and content of conference sessions
APT 2016 invites submissions for sessions in the following formats:
- Academic research paper (20 minutes)
- Practice-led case study (20 minutes)
- Workshop or debate (50 minutes)
- Lightning talk (5 minutes)

'Academic practice' embraces teaching and learning in both formal and informal settings, and addresses learning across the whole of the student journey. Sessions can cover research (completed or work-in-progress), case studies, practitioner- or student-led inquiry, collaborative evaluation and/or a current key debate.

Each session must be relevant to one or more of the conference themes and should offer significant opportunity for interaction and discussion. Favourable consideration will be given to submissions that have student co-authors and/or include innovative approaches to audience engagement.

2. Preparing your abstract
Each submission must be accompanied by an extended abstract: 500 words for papers, case studies and workshops; 250 words for lightning talks. When preparing your abstract, please follow these guidelines carefully:

1. State format of session, i.e workshop, case study, lightening talk, etc
2. Give a clear description (400 words; 200 words for lightning talks) that includes:
   - The relevance of the topic to your chosen conference theme(s)
   - The importance of the topic to academic practice and technology
   - Reference to appropriate theory, research and/or practice
   - For a practical session, the learning outcomes for participants and proposed activities including approximate

timings
2. State how your session will encourage participant engagement and interaction (100 words; 50 words for lightning talks).
3. Provide between two and six supporting references, using the Harvard system (see http://tinyurl.com/aptref).
4. For the purposes of double-blind peer review, ensure that authors' names, institutional affiliations and references to the authors' work are omitted from the description.

The submission and review process
Please submit your abstracts through the conference online submission system at:
http://tiny.cc/aptsubmission

In addition to uploading your abstract you will be required to provide the following information: author names, email address, affiliation, conference theme(s) addressed, session type.

Each abstract will be double-blind refereed according to the following criteria:
- Relevance to the conference title "Mind the Gap" and to at least one of the conference themes
- Usefulness to conference participants, including those from outside the UK
- Contribution to the provision of reliable evidence for scholarship and research into the integration of learning technologies into academic practice
- Appropriate reflection and evaluation
- Clarity, coherence and conformance to guidelines

After your submission has been accepted…
The authors of successful submissions will be notified in March. Abstracts can be revised by logging into the conference site. At least one presenter must confirm their intention to attend the conference by registering by 3rd June. Only when this booking has been received will the session be added to the conference programme. The full programme will be published in the second half of June.

We will offer one free place to one student presenter per paper.

Key dates
Closing date for submission of abstracts: Monday 7th March
Feedback to authors: Friday 29th April
Deadline for resubmission: Monday 9th May
Deadline for registration of presenters: Friday 3rd June
Closing date for registration of all other delegates: Friday 10th June
Submission of presentations for upload to website: Monday 27th June
Conference: Tuesday 5th July

For further information, visit the conference website: https://showtime.gre.ac.uk/index.php/ecentre/apt2016