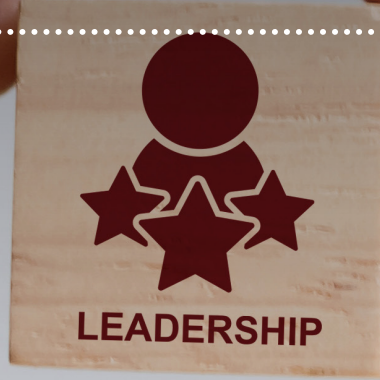


Truly transformative teaching – enter into the entrepreneurial mind-set

By Professor Jess Power
Professor of Learning
and Teaching

Wednesday 22 May 2019



*44th out of 121 UK institutions in the Guardian League Tables 2019



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Jess has a sustained distinction in teaching and learning, combined with a substantial record of leadership evidenced through her research, scholarly activity, publications, presentations, career trajectory and successful record of postgraduate research supervision. This has been nationally recognised by the Award of National Teaching Fellow (NTF 2016) and status of Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA 2013); and internationally recognised by the conferment to Reader of Textiles and Apparel (May 2015) and later Professor of Teaching and Learning (2017).

She also holds the status of Fellow of the Textile Institute (the chartered worldwide organisation for textiles) and is an elected member of the council.

Jess was born in Bolton, Lancashire and still resides in the area with her husband and daughter, she takes a keen interest in local events and contributes to the local community.

She studied Fashion and Textiles at De Montfort University, graduating in 1996 with a BSc (Hons) in Knitwear Design and Production. This led to her gaining graduate employment at the prestigious British Heritage Brand Jaeger. In her role as design interpreter Jess balanced her creativity with advanced technical knowledge, designing and developing luxury knitwear for the UK and international markets. In this role Jess was able to test the capability of the latest weft knitting technology to advance shaping, garment fit and ultimately the style and quality of heritage knitwear.

This innovation within knitwear garment engineering and her love of design led to her pursuing a Master's Degree at Nottingham Trent University part-time. This was a challenge that Jess embraced wholeheartedly maximising the benefits of work-based learning which led to the award of Masters of Arts (by research) in Fashion and Textiles in 1999 (with distinction). The work conducted during this period still holds

relevance today and has been published extensively in trade press (Knitting International) and internationally renowned peer reviewed journals, most recently in January 2019 in the International Journal of Fashion Design, Technology and Education. This role led to her developing a keen interest in advancing apparel engineering generally, through exploiting the capabilities of the new programming systems and advance technology solutions.

Early in the Millennium, Jess took up her first research position at The University of Manchester, Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) in the School of Textiles. The position was funded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to exploit novel and innovative knitting technology for new and emerging markets in the growing field of technical textiles. She worked as an integral member of an interdisciplinary team consisting of designers, technicians, mechanical and electrical engineers. This research soon evolved into a PhD in the field of technical textiles where Jess explored the deformation of 3D knitted preforms knitted from high performance yarns, combining studies with full-time employment commitments.

Upon graduation Jess secured an academic position as a Senior Lecturer in Fashion Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University. She accelerated through the ranks of management from Module Leader, to Course Leader of a flagship course; Followed later by more senior roles within the faculty including, Vice-Chair of the Ethics Committee, Department Research Degree Coordinator and later Faculty Research Degree Coordinator. Jess was recognised for her inspirational teaching and passion to inspire the learners. In 2006 she was awarded a University Fellow in Academic Practice to research new modes of delivery to promote greater student satisfaction within textiles. This research proved instrumental in changing delivery from passive systems to an inclusive system with active engagement.

She created dynamic learning environments using active learning techniques, involving team teaching and research informed practice. The traditional classroom was flipped to offer project-led learning opportunities, peer-to peer support mechanisms and integrated on-line forums.

This promoted the teaching/research nexus within the department and resulted in a number of publications focusing on: integrating technology to enhance the student experience, embedding employability into the curriculum, best practice models for practice led subjects and new frameworks to support commercial/industry-ready graduates (Power, 2014; 2012; 2010). A range of new modules were developed as a direct outcome of the research which brought together technologies from different areas within the apparel industry. This fast-paced dynamic style of learning challenged the students technically, creatively and emotionally; it integrated technical, academic and support staff across a large department. The integration of continuous peer feedback throughout the modules was deemed as exemplary by the student body which led to a nomination from the student body in the MMU Students Union Awards 2012 for "Outstanding feedback".



Her interest in pedagogic research within the creative industries was further enhanced when Jess joined the University of Huddersfield in 2012 as Director of Teaching and Learning within the School of Art, Design and Architecture. She immediately recognised a gap in the use of technology enhanced learning within creative arts and gained a University Teaching and Learning Innovation Grant to investigate this. This was a collaborative project between Art & Design and Music, Humanities & Media and investigated the use of the institution's Virtual learning Environment. The outcomes informed institutional policy and resulted in a new interface being developed within the virtual learning platform. This was and continues to be promoted through the university's central training platform and adopted widely across the university. Jess was conferred to Reader in 2015 in recognition of her sustained academic distinction in research, teaching and learning, academic leadership and professional citizenship within the area of Fashion and Textiles.

The success of the technology enhanced learning project led to Jess leading two University projects (ICE and HoneyPot) funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering Visiting Professors Scheme. Working with two visiting Professors of Innovation Professor Jonathan Sands OBE (Vexillifer Elmwood), Professor Stephen Gabriel (then President of 3M New Ventures), and colleagues within the University of Huddersfield, Professor Liz Towns-Andrews and Dr Leigh Fleming. She embraced these projects bringing in her network and expertise of connecting people to enhance student learning; and transformed the projects into a blueprint for excellence in enhancing the student experience in higher education.

The ICE and HoneyPot projects have been widely disseminated through a series of high-profile case studies and have been nationally and internationally recognised as good practice. They feature in: The ECT 2015 (Enhancing the Curriculum Toolkit: University of South Wales), Enhancing Employability Through Enterprise Education: Examples of Good Practice in HE, (published by The Higher Education Academy in 2014), The Experiential Entrepreneurship Exercises Journal (2016) and more recently (2018) as a book chapter - Experiential Learning for Entrepreneurship, Theoretical and Practical Perspectives on Enterprise (published by Palgrave). Building on from the case-studies Jess was invited to speak at the annual conference for The Visiting Professors Scheme at the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2015.

The Innovation and Creative Exchange (ICE) provided a dynamic and unique environment outside the traditional curriculum for undergraduate students to work on industry-led challenges which crossed discipline boundaries. It introduced disruptive parameters to impact on learning, placing students in a time-controlled environment, challenging students both creatively and technically in a competitive setting. Thus, developing the essential skills and attributes required for an ever-changing competitive commercial landscape. In contrast, HoneyPot was built on the notion of a 'trap' in which all forms of ideas were brought together, dismissed or debated in both a physical and on-line environment. The projects worked in unison to provide a dynamic environment for undergraduate students to develop technical, problem solving, critical thinking and social integration skills to enhance their discipline studies.

This contributed to equipping graduates with confidence to contribute to the global environment and societies of the future. The project brought together students from design, engineering, business and later all faculties to work on industry challenges to develop novel and innovative solutions within an interdisciplinary context. Jess theorised the practice of embedding interdisciplinary into higher education by developing a model of best practice (known as "HIM") which contributed to her attaining an MBA in 2016 (with distinction) and the The Annual Radicon Prize for outstanding part-time student. This work was published in 2017 in the leading international journal, *Studies in Higher Education*.

In 2016 her sustained contribution to teaching and learning, leadership, research and scholarly lead to her nomination by the University of Huddersfield for a National Teaching Fellowship (NTF). She was presented this prestigious award in the 2017 ceremony by the Higher Education Academy (now AdvanceHE) for her work to enhance and transform the student learning experience institutionally, nationally and internationally. This contributed to the promotion to Professor of Teaching and Learning in Creative Arts at The University of Huddersfield in 2017.

During her career Jess has made a significant contribution to the profession both within teaching and learning and within fashion and textiles. She holds the status of Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Fellow of Chartered Management Institute and Associate of Entrepreneurial Leaders. Further to this she was awarded a Fellow of The Textile Institute (TI) in 2010 for her major personal creative contribution to Teaching and Learning within the creative sector and was elected to the Council, subsequently serving for three consecutive terms, 2011-2020. Her active contribution has led to her being appointed to the Institute's Professional Accreditation Committee (2012) which advises on individual and corporate accreditation and global educational matters in 90 countries. She regularly reviews Higher Education courses for professional body accreditations across the globe. More recently (2016) Jess joined the TI Publications Committee, which led to her being appointed as co-editor for the Textile Institute CRC Professional Publication Series, a newly-established international publication. Jess is also a committee member of the Group for Learning in Art and Design (GLAD) and acts as an advocate for the creative sector at national and international forums.

Her expertise and specialist knowledge span's both fashion and textiles and cross into other disciplines (health, engineering, education and business). This is evidenced through her sustained publication portfolio which demonstrates high quality research with impact for the commercial sector and wider higher education sector. She has over 15 years teaching experience and has contributed extensively to the development of quality assurance, policy

enhancement both internally and externally at national and international levels. Her distinguished record demonstrates success in grant capture both for Teaching and learning and for scholarly research. She led a collaborative project funded by Yorkshire Innovation Fund (ERDF) with renowned partners including Professor David Leaper and a local charity. The impact of this project has been far-reaching with much publicity for the cross-school Institute of Skin Integrity and Infection Prevention at The University of Huddersfield, of which Jess was a founding member and part of the management team.

Currently she is supervising 2 DBA students and 1 PhD student and has successfully supervised 5 PGT (research awards) and 6 PhD students. Jess has led a variety of internally and externally funded research projects and has published widely with over 70 national/international publications, including keynote presentations.

Jess is particularly interested in contributing to shaping the future of higher education through challenge-led learning integrating academic disciplines, creating learning networks and knowledge co-creation. Her innovative approach bridges disciplines and has resulted in best-practice models for integrating interdisciplinarity into teaching and learning to develop enterprise and employability skills for higher education students which has led to innovative and valuable social assets. Her focus on interdisciplinarity has enabled her to transform the student experience by creating networks for individuals, who share the common goal of transferring knowledge beyond the boundaries of their own disciplines, whilst developing employability and enterprising skills.

She was delighted to join Staffordshire University in 2018 as Professor of Teaching and Learning and Associate Dean Student (Staffordshire Business School). She recently was appointed to her current role as Associate Dean for Students in Creative Arts and Engineering and is looking forward to the opportunities of working collaboratively across the school and beyond.

In her spare time Jess enjoys spending time with her daughter, encouraging her to embrace all of life's opportunities, exploring new disciplines and activities every day.

Twitter [Jess__Power__](#)

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