

# SoTLVision

## An Evaluation of a Pilot Multisite Conference/Workshop



Earle Abrahamson

Duncan Cross

# Presentation Overview

- **Overview of SoTLVision**
- **Principles and Values of SoTL**
- **SoTLVision Sessions**
- **Evaluation**
- **Next Steps**

# Overview of SoTLVision

- Pilot held in the UK, in January 2018 at 2 locations (University of East London and Bolton University)
- 22 participants from 6 institutions (3 Universities and 3 Further Education (FE) Colleges)
- Engaged with discussion, debate and evaluation of SoTL practices, purposes and scholarly narratives.

# Overview of SoTLVision

- launched through the ISSoTL multinational teaching fellows special interest group (MNTF).
- workshops run concurrently in multiple locations by using interactive software such as skype.
- Inclusive approach enables attendees to learn from colleagues across borders, territories, disciplines and learning cohorts.



# Format of Day

- Skype used to introduce participants and set the theme for the day.
- Attendees then worked with session leads to discuss common questions around SoTL practice.
- The groups reconvened to discuss their thoughts and further considered ways forward for future collaboration and development.

# Principles and Values of SoTL

- (1) inquiry into student learning
- (2) grounded in context
- (3) methodologically sound
- (4) conducted in partnership with students,
- (5) appropriately public

Felten (2013)



# SoTLVision Sessions

*"For the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) to be understood as significant intellectual work in the academy, SoTL practitioners need to identify shared principles of good practice." Felten (2013)*

This session will be an exploration of Felten's 5 principles of SoTL (inquiry into student learning; grounded in context; methodologically sound; conducted in partnership with students; and appropriately public) with the aim of supporting colleagues to develop and refine collaborative SoTL activity both internally and externally to institutions/disciplines.

The session will also seek to clarify and demystify SoTL so that participants can articulate, to those who evaluate our work, the case for institutional resources and support for SoTL using the principles to define a vision of a scholarship that enhances, transforms, teaching and learning in our higher education contexts.

# Attendee Activity

*Based upon the definition in the previous slide – how is SoTL supported at your institution in terms of:*

- a. Modular and Programme Level*
- b. Department and School Level*
- c. Institutionally*

*Is there a need to develop a SoTL awareness at your institution?*

*Please discuss your thoughts with a colleague and then post your ideas to:*

<https://answer garden.ch/788198>



All felt Skype Useful - but connection was a challenge

All felt pre-reading useful

Met Expectations  
14 Strongly Agreed  
6 Agreed

Did the Event help to Clarify SOTL  
19 YES  
1 Missing response

Encouraged to Actively Participate  
17 Strongly Agreed  
3 Agreed

20/22 completed Evaluations

All would come to another event

All felt networking useful

Worked in SoTL Previously  
13 NO  
7 YES

# PILOT Evaluation

# Evaluation

UEL 1 – Enjoyed the session, allowed me to better comprehend SoTL within my working context and area of expertise

UEL 2 – Not sure how SoTL differs from pedagogic research. Felten's principles are useful in explaining the principles but not necessarily the value of SoTL

UEL 3 – Very interesting and thought-provoking – thinking about how to engage senior managers with a vision for institutional transformation based on the pillars of SoTL elucidated by Felten.

UOB 1 – Very interesting to see overlaps between the two groups/sites

UOB2 - Very good at tackling academic isolation

UOB3 – Excellent networking – interesting to share ideas and views with colleagues across a range of disciplines

UOB 4- Makes the reflection on my own practice more inspirational and has encouraged me to collaborate



# Next Steps

- Extend the SoTLVision concept and encourage different institutions to use the concept to develop a SoTL identity
- Enable access to conference discussions through the SoTLVision Network
- Work collaboratively to make public the principles, values, and development of SoTL within, and across, Higher Education borders
- Host live discussions and SoTL reviews through SoTLVision

# The Significance of Song in SoTL

## Dipping our feet in the SoTL Sea...

I've been standing at the edge of the water

Long as I can remember

never really knowing why

I wish I could be the perfect daughter (academic)

But I come back to the water

No matter how hard I try.

Every turn I take

Every trail I track

Every path I make

Every road leads back to the place I know

Where I cannot go

Where I long to be

See the line where the sky meets the  
sea

It calls me

No one knows how far it goes

If the wind in my sail on the sea  
stays behind me

One day I'll know

If I go there's just no telling how far  
I'll go

- 
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPAbx5kgCJo>

Hosting SoTLVision and Think Aloud

PLEASE CONTACT:

Duncan – [D.Cross@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:D.Cross@bolton.ac.uk)

Earle – [Earle1@uel.ac.uk](mailto:Earle1@uel.ac.uk)

# Where do I find SoTL publications?

## SoTL Journals

- Teaching Journals Directory <https://cetl.kennesaw.edu/teaching-journals-directory> (regularly updated)
- <http://www.fctl.ucf.edu/researchandscholarship/sotl/journals/index.php> (up to 2011)

## *Selected open access SoTL Journals*

- *Asian Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* <http://www.ajsotl.edu.sg/>
- *The Canadian Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* (CJSOTL) <http://www.cjsotl-rcacea.ca/>
- *International Journal for Students as Partners* (IJSaP) <https://mulpress.mcmaster.ca/ijsap>
- \* *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning* (IJ-SoTL) <http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/> published by the Center for Excellence in Teaching at Georgia Southern University (Statesboro, Georgia, USA)
- *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* (IJTLHE) <http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/>
- *The Journal of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* (JoSoTL) Published by Indiana University. Available at: <http://www.iupui.edu/~josotl/>
- *Practice and Evidence of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* <http://community.dur.ac.uk/pestlhe.learning/index.php/pestlhe/index>
- \* *Teaching and Learning Inquiry* (TLI) ISSoTL Journal <http://tljournal.com/>
- *Transformative Dialogues: Teaching and Learning Journal* <http://kwantlen.ca/TD.html>