

Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching: Frameworks and Practice

Patrick McAndrew
The Open University

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Life-changing Learning
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Definition of *interdisciplinary* in English:

interdisciplinary

Pronunciation /ɪntəˈdɪsɪplɪn(ə)ri/ ⓘ 🔊 /ˌɪntədɪsɪˈplɪn(ə)ri/ ⓘ 🔊

ADJECTIVE

Relating to more than one branch of knowledge.

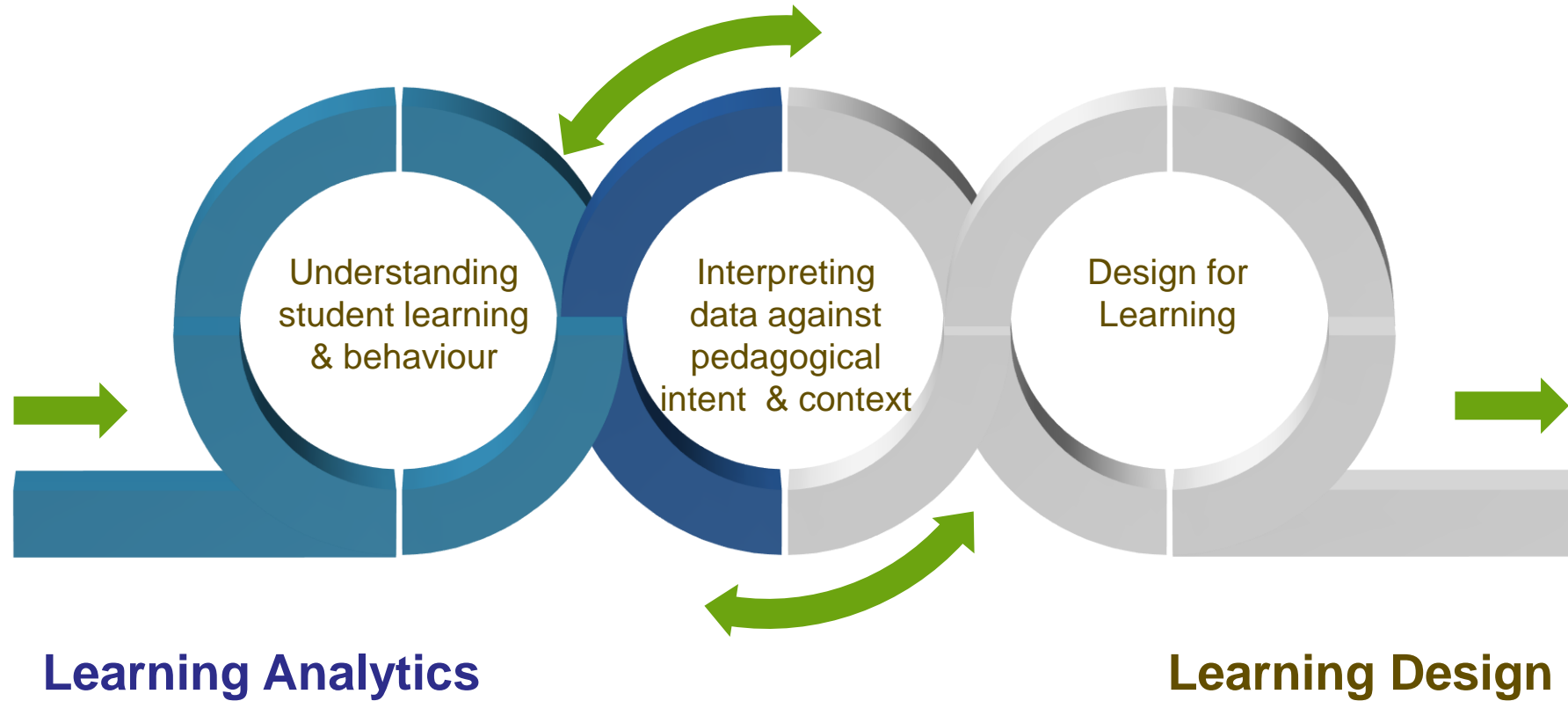
‘an interdisciplinary research programme’

Research
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Translating Analytics into Pedagogical Action

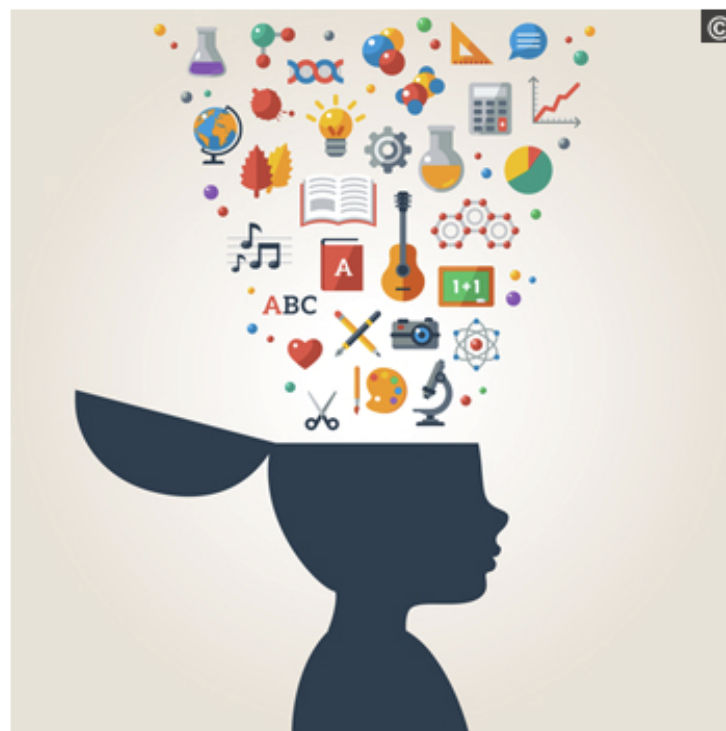


What is interdisciplinary study?

This type of study allows the student to learn by making connections between ideas and concepts across different disciplinary boundaries. Students learning in this way are able to apply the knowledge gained in one discipline to another different discipline as a way to deepen the learning experience. The most effective approach to interdisciplinary study enables students to build their own interdisciplinary pathway by choosing courses which make sense to them.

For example, it is not too difficult to find a theme which crosses over disciplinary boundaries in literature, art and history or science and mathematics. Studying topics thematically is one way to bring ideas together resulting in more meaningful learning. This can occur by allowing students to choose their own subjects and their learning is deepened when they reflect on the connections between what they are learning in different disciplines.

One of the biggest barriers to achieving true interdisciplinary study in education environments is the necessity for collaboration of educators. This can be difficult to achieve, but not impossible. Interdisciplinary teaching and learning is maximised when professionals from different disciplines work together to serve a common purpose and to help students make the connections between different disciplines or subject areas. Such interaction is in



(Guest)

Michelle Appleby is a senior academic counselor for the Joint Honors Scheme and also a senior lecturer in Education Studies at the University of Derby. She is currently undertaking doctoral research on the learning experiences of joint...

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Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching: Frameworks and Practice, 6 April 2017, Milton Keynes

Submitted by Armelle Griffin on Fri, 01/20/2017 - 15:43

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017 -
10:00 to 16:30

Location: The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, UK

Following on from a [successful event at the University of Sheffield in 2016](#), The Open University (OU) will be hosting a one-day event to share frameworks, projects and experience through which interdisciplinary learning and teaching can be approached within Higher Education (HE). The conference focus is on the emerging practices of interdisciplinary learning and teaching and how theoretical pedagogical frameworks might enhance and further develop interdisciplinary learning and teaching practice for foundation level students, undergraduates and taught-postgraduates.

Programme - including key note and breakout sessions



Please see the biography of [Professor Eileen Scanlon](#), Regius Professor of Open Education at The Open University, who will deliver the keynote presentation at the event.

Bookings for this event are now closed. If you would like to make a late booking or if you have any questions about the conference, please [contact us](#).

Contact Link: interdisciplinary2017@open.ac.uk

Welcome