



ANGEL / TEESNet Partnership Network: Colloquium on Global Citizenship and Sustainability Education for 'hopeful' futures

Members of the [ANGEL / TEESNet Partnership Network](#) attended a two-day colloquium on the 28-29th June at the **University of Nottingham, School of Education (UoN SoE)**, led by ANGEL member **Professor Dalene Swanson**. The colloquium was a collaboration between **UoN SoE, ANGEL UK and TEESNet** which builds on a successful [one-day conference collaboration on 13th June 2022](#), hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University's Faculty of Health and Education and led by Professor Karen Pashby.

The purpose of the Nottingham gathering was to foster stronger, established ties around key challenges in the area(s) of global citizenship and sustainability education, in ways that also respond to the UN SDGs, and to collaborate on possible future initiatives including potential joint funding applications.

Colloquium themes & activities

The Nottingham colloquium focussed on two interconnected themes:

- Addressing the many tensions and ambiguities that arise between and across education for global citizenship education and sustainability, and the way these influence the field. These 'tensions' were first introduced by Professor Dalene Swanson who led a conference in January 2020 in collaboration with Dr Tanya Wisely (IDEAS Scotland), Bridge 47, EADI, MUNDU Denmark, and Liverpool World Centre. While these tensions were prominently discussed, they will be the subject of further discussion and debate at the Nottingham colloquium. We believe these debates are important because they shape how we, as researchers, teachers, policymakers, practitioners and scholar activists, respond to the multiple, interconnected crises in which we find ourselves today, locally and globally, and how we see and enact education for justice. These crises invite us and demand that we act.

- The second theme builds on the first – looking at ways in which we, as educationalists, can promote possible hopeful, just and sustainable futures, including recognising that such hope is complex and uncertain by nature. In times of increasing pessimism, despair and doom, and given the negative inter-locking consequences of multiple global crises, the important question can be posed: how do we teach beyond utopia, toward liveable and hopeful actions and collective courage?

Event structure

The two days were structured to combine short provocations, including story and images, presentations of current research relevant to colloquium themes, and spaces for group dialogue and reflection, including opportunities to engage with University of Nottingham's outdoor spaces led by Dr Jenny Elliott. This encouraged us to focus attention on the role of emotions and feelings, as well as pedagogy, in GCE.

Day 1 introductions revealed diverse ways in which participants made connections between their interests, work and GCE. These ranged from environment and sustainability to intercultural and international education, highlighting the rich potential for GCE to provide a space for different and interrelated research interests. The theme of connections continued in group discussions of synergies and 'productive tensions', stimulated by provocations which addressed the relationship between social and ecological justice, and developments in critical and post critical GCE.

Day 2 focused on clarifying themes emerging from Day 1, identifying cracks, spaces and 'hope' for GCE in institutions, and potential research and other collaborations. Again, discussions were stimulated by Professor Momodou Sallah (De Montfort University, Leicester) and his work as a 'scholar-activist' working with the generation, production and application of knowledge through praxis and action, illustrated by an example in The Gambia.

In addition, there was also:

- Introduction to related research at Nottingham University
- Short introductory sessions outlining current activities and future plans by ANGEL and TEESNet
- Session to discuss and plan joint research projects
- Networking sessions / opportunity to showcase research

Ideas for the future

- Pair work
- Termly online meetings
- Themed online discussions based around common readings
- Network for PGR examiners
- Panels at conferences

FEEDBACK

Around 25% of attendees returned feedback on the event. You can see a summary of this below.

What we did well

- Providing opportunities for networking
- Creating clarity about the current state of the research field

Areas to improve

- Consider involving students in a more significant way
- Provide more opportunities to explore options for future collaboration / grant applications

Quotes

I got to know like-minded people, and hopefully initiated conversations that will go on for years forward.

The fact that the participants were from various institutions and interested in global citizenship education for different reasons was a strength as it allowed for various views and ideas to be voiced and discussed.