

## WORKSHOP SESSION 1

### Strand 2: KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE

- **Your lecturer likes this: facebook for learning and teaching – Aniela Wenham and Matt Cornock, SPSW**
  - *Abstract:* This session comprises of two complementary papers to inform discussion on whether Facebook can and should be used to support teaching and learning. We focus particularly on the way Facebook groups could be used for sustaining learning beyond the classroom and discuss the role of the tutor within such online spaces. The themes presented may apply to other forms of communication and interaction where students are asked to use third-party online tools for learning that are not controlled by the institution.

We identify the challenges and constraints of using third-party online tools for teaching and learning activities, outlining the risks of using social networking platforms, including social boundaries and online identity. We will draw upon recent survey data of our first year cohort to explore students' perceptions of Facebook and challenge assumptions practitioners may hold about the role of students' personal online environments.

We then detail how a Facebook group has been included within two Undergraduate modules as a learning activity to provide an external sharing and discussion space with other institutions. Evidence will come from student feedback about the modules, first-hand experience of the module leader and a summary of the participation on the Facebook group.

As a result of this session, with an awareness of the risks, benefits and tutor involvement required, delegates will be able to make an informed choice about the role of third-party online spaces as part of their teaching and learning approaches.