

Title: 'The power of things: Enhancing employability in higher education through object-based learning'

A Flinders University Art Museum project in partnership with AC Arts / TAFE SA and The University of Melbourne with support provided by the Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching.

Project span: 1 February 2016 – 31 January 2017

AIM

This project aims to develop an innovative, adaptive and best practice pedagogical model to enhancing employability skills in higher education graduates. In doing so, it will bring Australia to the forefront of object-based learning (OBL) an emerging approach to curriculum development in the tertiary sector.

ABSTRACT

The power of things is a collaborative project responding to the challenge Universities face in graduating students who are work-ready. Addressing areas of curriculum design and assessment it will develop, trial and evaluate three teaching modules (one each in Arts, Science and Humanities) explicitly blending academic and practical learning experiences to improve employability outcomes. This work will be approached through the frame of OBL, an evolving teaching method in tertiary institutions that offers a platform for building subject specific knowledge and developing core skills for work. Key project outputs will include an adaptive pedagogical model for embedding employability skills within discipline specific areas and associated teaching and evaluation tools. These resources will be disseminated through established networks across the academic community, boosting the capacity of the sector to address employability needs in ways that are engaging, meaningful and effective.

Project Team membership:

- Ms Fiona Salmon, Director, Flinders University Art Museum – Project Co-Leader
- Dr Catherine Kevin, Senior Lecturer, Discipline of History, International Studies, Flinders University – Project Co-Leader
- Ms Jackie Wurm, Flinders University Art Museum – Project Manager
- A/Prof Michael Baigent, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Flinders University
- Ms Vicki Reynolds, Studio Head Printmaking, Adelaide College of the Arts, TAFE South Australia and Adjunct, School of Education, Flinders University
- Ms Fiona Sherwin, Lecturer, Art History, Adelaide College of the Arts, TAFE South Australia and Adjunct, School of Education, Flinders University
- Dr Heather Gaunt, Curator of Academic Programs (Research), The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne.

Reference Group membership:

- Ms Fiona Salmon (Chair) and Dr Catherine Kevin
- Prof Richard Maltby, Executive Dean, Faculty of Education, Humanities & Law, Flinders University
- Ms Ali Gumillya Baker, Senior Lecturer, Yunggoendi Student Services, Office of Indigenous Strategy and Engagement (OISE, Flinders University)
- Ms Natalie Harkin, Lecturer, Yunggoendi Student Services, (OISE), Flinders University

- Dr Ann Luzeckyj, Senior Lecturer in Higher Education: First Year Undergraduate Teaching Adviser, Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching, Digital Portfolio, Flinders University
- Ms Nina Tabor, Manager, Careers and Employers Liaison Centre, Flinders University
- Dr Christine Putland, Southgate Institute, Flinders University
- Dr Giovanna Vitelli, Director, University Engagement Programme, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All to champion and assist with disseminating and embedding findings and tools

Project team

Project Co-Leader - Fiona Salmon

- oversee and direct project, chair Project Team meetings and Reference Group meetings
- provide expert knowledge of and access to Flinders collections

Project Co-Leader – Dr Catherine Kevin

- oversee and direct project
- provide expert knowledge of academic engagement

Project Manager

- manage project, including planning, ethics approval, budget, communication, documentation, acknowledgements, organise meetings, agendas and minutes
- academic liaison and assist with research and evaluation, draft reports

Academic members

- attend face to face and virtual meetings, up to once per month for one hour
- contribute to email discussions
- design curriculum and resources for a chosen subject, including strategies to address barriers to uptake
- trial in a class of students enrolled in an undergraduate subject coordinated by them (the external member would not be involved in a trial)
- write up findings in an agreed form
- provide feedback on ethics, draft reports, webportal and other elements.

Reference Group role:

- review/provide feedback on draft reports, templates and other elements
- attend at least two face to face or virtual meetings
- contribute evaluation expertise.

More information <http://artmuseum.flinders.edu.au/academic-programs>