

Surveys and Insights Symposium 2022

Innovative Insight

28 April 2022

Session abstracts

Session 1, 11:20 – 12:20

Session 1.1a

Gathering student insights during the pandemic of pre-covid-19 experience of campus spaces

Freya Ernsting, Dr Kay Lalor and Dr Amna Khan, Manchester Metropolitan University

Oral presentation

Aiming to identify ways to improve student access to and use of campus spaces, the Student Space Project informed strategic decision making in the post-COVID-19 return to campus-based learning. Conducted during the pandemic, we sought insights of pre-COVID-19 campus experiences and perceptions from students who may not have visited campus for over a year. Recognising these challenges, we adopted an innovative qualitative multimethod approach consisting of online focus groups, a Padlet activity, and space maps. Each method was selected based upon their unique characteristics, capturing different elements of student experience, and provided multiple means for students to contribute their voice.

Session 1.1b

Understanding the Free School Meal Attainment Gap

Sharon Steele and Ben Hickman, Alterline and Hollie Baker, University of Surrey

Oral presentation

This session will share the findings from an insight project into the Free School Meals Attainment Gap which was commissioned in 2021 by the University of Surrey's Widening Participation & Outreach Team and completed by Alterline, an insight and intelligence agency specialising in higher education. The university commissioned this innovative strategic research to further understand the GSCE Attainment gap, inform its 'Surrey Stars' outreach programme and facilitate a partnership of leaders to work towards closing the attainment gap.

Session 2, 13:20 – 14:20

Session 2.1b

Checking the pulse of pre-access outreach

Anam Khan, Imperial College London

Oral presentation

Outreach and widening participation teams are increasingly asked to measure their impact on young people's lives, producing evidence and results to prove their effect. Using a 'small-steps' approach to evaluation, Imperial's Outreach Team have launched a common survey tool to measure students' 'pulse' throughout their progression from school to university. This session will explore how the tool was developed, implemented and the insights that have begun to emerge.

Session 2.1c

Pushing metacognition: talking to international students about their learning

Richard Cotterill, University of York

Oral presentation

Talking about our own learning is a challenging, metacognitive task. This presentation will explain how I have used a task-based approach within semi-structured group interviews to help my participants, international graduate students, articulate their thoughts in a meaningful way.

Session 3, 14:30 – 15:30

Session 3.1a

Social responsibility awareness of uni students

Dr Jason Sit and Dr Diletta Acuti, University of Portsmouth

Oral presentation

How can universities learn about students' social responsibility awareness without introducing social bias? A metaphor elicitation technique

Session 3.1b

Analysis of Sector-Wide UKES/PTES/PRES Free Text Comments

Dr Stuart Grey, Student Voice

Oral presentation

This session covers the collaborative project between AdvanceHE and Student Voice to analyse the free-text comments from over 100 UK institutions as part of the 2021 UKES, PTES and PRES surveys. We look at how machine learning models were developed, trained and deployed to automatically label this uniquely large data-set with both category and sentiment information. We also discuss our approach to using this data to inform institutional change via institutional comparisons as well as UK wide course and demographic comparisons.

Session 3.1c

Creating powerful "narratives" out of student and staff survey data

Dr Rod Cullen and Kate Soper, Manchester Metropolitan University

Oral presentation

At Manchester Metropolitan University we conduct an annual Institutional Internal Student Survey (ISS) and the JISC Teaching Staff Digital Insights survey every two years. We have developed an approach to thematically analysing Technology Enhanced Learning related free text comments from both data sets. Furthermore, we have developed innovative "narrative" approaches to sharing the findings from our analyses with audiences across and at all levels within the university. In our presentation, we will show specific examples of where these narratives connected powerfully with both senior managers and grass roots teaching staff leading to strategic developments enhancements to teaching practice.