

SoTL-Asia Conference 2017

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Invited Speaker:

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Title of Talk:

Building Mechanisms of Translation into SoTL

Abstract

One of the aims of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning is, as Mary Huber (2013) has suggested, to investigate questions about your students' learning and publicly to share your findings to enable others to build on what you have done. This apparently innocent formulation contains, however, an epistemological difficulty in the notion of sharing practice by isolating the "classroom" from the larger cultural, material and political forces that shape it. The presentation considers practice in Singapore and asks: 'who is it realistic to share practice with?' Why is SoTL that has been conducted in Western countries often rejected by faculty in Singapore as culturally inappropriate, and is there a way that SoTL can be conducted such that it can speak across boundaries? This presentation proposes that there are various mechanisms of translation that need to be built into the conduct of SoTL. These involve expanding the context within which SoTL questions are asked and the use of theory as a possible mediator of different contexts.