New Directions for Work in Digital Scotland: A Knowledge Exchange Programme

Seminar 1 Speaker biographies

Ms Alyson Mitchell Head of Digital Participation, Scottish Government “Embracing New Directions”

Alyson Mitchell holds a newly created post within the recently formed Digital Division of the Scottish Government. This development recognises the importance of Digital Participation to 21st century Scotland and the social and economic benefits a digitally connected society bring. Increasing participation is about depth as well as breadth; escalating on-line participation by basic users as well as driving up the number of people routinely going on line. This applies equally to the business place and the home. Before taking up her current post Alyson was Head of International Networks and Diaspora. Her worked focussed on engagement with Diaspora groups, the development of Diaspora engagement policy and supporting on line communication tools. She joined the Scottish Government in 2002 as a Chief Press Officer. Her background is in broadcast journalism and programme production and she developed an interest in digital technologies while working for BBC Scotland.

Mr Joseph Lockwood “Design Innovation”

Joseph Lockwood is Programme Director for The Centre for Design Innovation, Forres at The Glasgow School of Art. He has over 14 years experience in SME business start-up, expansion and strategic change management, including strategic partnerships within the creative industries in both domestic and export markets as well as knowledge exchange partnerships with HEI. He leads the research project ‘Cultures of Innovation’ which looks at how creative thinking and design processes can be integrated in organizations to improve productivity in areas key to the future success of the business. He is a contributor to strategic networks in industry and public sector on innovation and knowledge exchange.

Joe studied at the University of Sussex gaining B.A.(Hons) and M.A. degrees in English Literature and an Executive MBA from the University of Nottingham.


Mr Derek Robertson “Can games based approaches stimulate new thinking that helps adults to sustain work in digital society?”

Derek Robertson’s career in education has seen him work as a primary school teacher, a staff tutor in a council education department, a lecturer on the B.Ed(P) and PGDE(P) teacher preparation courses at the University of Dundee and now as National Adviser for Emerging Technologies and Learning at Learning and Teaching Scotland. In his current position he leads the team responsible for exploring and developing the effective uses of computer games to enhance teaching, learning and assessment approaches that underpin Scotland’s new curriculum: Curriculum for Excellence.

A major aspect of Derek’s work has been involved with exploring and articulating just how game-based learning can have a positive impact on children’s learning experiences and to this end he established Learning and
Teaching Scotland's Consolarium initiative, which was aimed at exploring how the challenging, demanding and culturally relevant and appealing world of the computer game could play a valid and worthwhile part in Scottish pupils' educational experiences.

His work includes his published research into the impact on mental maths attainment of the Dr Kawashima's Brain Training game for the Nintendo DS and many of his ideas and initiatives - such as using Guitar Hero, Nintendogs and Endless Ocean - have become popular in schools. Currently he is looking much closer into the design of computer games in terms of their learning paradigm so that the self-determination, self-assessment and self-improvement that appears to occur naturally in the computer games environment can be exploited and transferred into how schools present learning to learners. His grounded approach to any use of technology always makes him ask just what positive impact there is on learning and he is passionately convinced that appropriate and informed use of computer games can most certainly have that desired impact.

Mr Ewan McIntosh, “No Tosh” educational entrepreneur and small business mentor: “How are companies inspired to embrace new developments that sustain work?”

Ewan McIntosh is the founder of NoTosh Limited, a startup that develops products and services with creative companies on the one hand, and then takes the processes, attitudes and research gained there to the world of education. His company works with hundreds of schools and districts, providing ideas, inspiration and research on how to better engage kids. Ewan was a French and German High School teacher, before moving from the classroom into technology research and leadership as Scotland's first National Advisor on Learning and Technology Futures. He later helped set up one of the most ambitious investment funds from a public service broadcaster in the UK, the $100m 4iP Fund from Channel 4 Television. As well as heading up NoTosh’s work globally with creative corporations, Governments and school districts, Ewan is a “Digital Angel” advisor on the digital agenda to the Vice President of the European Commission, Mrs Neelie Kroes. He is also a Trustee of the RSA’s Opening Minds Curriculum and sits on the Board of Interactive Ontario’s INplay conference, showcasing where play, video games and learning meet. Ewan and his team are all about engaging people.

Professor Michael Fourman: “A Critical Analysis of our Digital Strategy and Practices”

Michael Fourman, FRSE, FBCS, received his Doctorate in Mathematical Logic from the University of Oxford in 1974. He has held academic appointments on three continents in Departments of Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science and Informatics. Since 1988 he has been Chair of Computer Systems at the University of Edinburgh. He was principal author of the Royal Society of Edinburgh’s ‘Digital Scotland’ report (2010). He has been appointed Specialist Adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications, for their recently launched inquiry into Superfast Broadband, and is closely involved in the national debate on Scotland’s Digital Ambition.

Professor Claire Wallace “New Ways of Doing Business through Digital Technology”

Claire Wallace is Professor of Sociology at the University of Aberdeen. She was formerly President of the European Sociological Association and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She has worked for more than thirty years on the changing nature of work and co-ordinated two EU Framework programmes on this topic. More recently, her research has been focused upon quality of life issues. At present she is a co-investigator at the dot.rural RCUK Digital Economy Hub which aims to transform rural areas by developing new models of business practice and community participation.