بوليتكنك البحرين
Bahrain Polytechnic

The 8ᵗʰ Annual Teaching and Learning Symposium 2017

Supporting Quality in Teaching and Learning
27-30 August 2017

Bahrain Polytechnic, Isa Town, Kingdom of Bahrain

Themes:

1. **e-Learning**
2. **Employability**
3. **Action Research**
4. **Problem-based Learning & Project-based Learning**

e-Learning:
Bahrain Polytechnic offers access to all course materials through an online blended approach both in and outside the classroom through a student centered work integrated problem-based learning approach. Through the Learning Management System, faculty members are able to support the different learning styles of all students and offer information, as well as post learning reinforcement, through quizzes and assignments designed to assist students in achieving the learning outcomes of each course. The sessions offered will be of great use to any higher education institution.

Employability:
As defined by Professor Mantz Yorke, employability is a set of achievements, skills, understandings and personal attributes that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations, which benefits themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy. The sessions will elaborate on the concept of employability and how this could be constructively aligned with learning outcomes to further enhance the whole teaching and learning experience.

Action Research:
Action research is a process in which participants examine their own educational practice systematically and carefully using the techniques of research. It is hence a disciplined process of inquiry conducted by and for those taking the action. This research is carried out within the context of the teacher's environment on questions that deal with educational matters at hand. The primary reason for engaging in action research is to assist the "actor" in improving and/or refining his or her actions.

Problem-based Learning & Project-based Learning:
Problem-Based Learning (PBL) is a method in which complex real-world problems are used as the vehicle to promote student learning of concepts and principles as opposed to direct presentation of facts and concepts. Project-based learning (PrBL) refers to any approach that utilizes multidimensional projects as a central organizing strategy for educating students. Both of these approaches have been shown to promote the development of critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and communication skills as it encourages learners to be self-directed yet highly collaborative within a group, which will lead them to be life-long learners. The sessions will showcase the work being done at Bahrain Polytechnic as examples of using both approaches to produce work-ready graduates.

Day 1: Sunday, 27th August 2017 | e-Learning

8:00- 8:30 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Welcome & Introduction

Time	Stream 1	Stream 2
9:00 – 9:50	**LMS Activities and Resources for the Initiated** Staff have had access to the 'How To' training for the LMS Activities and Resources. It is now time for more pedagogical approaches to be discussed. Staff, grouped by faculty, will be provided with PBL scenarios for which they will provide online solutions. These will then be discussed and created, time allowing. A good working knowledge of the LMS is expected.	**Sway** This session shall train participants on creating the most appealing presentations, reports and newsletters using Sway. **Hala Eid**
10:00 – 10:50		**IT Troubleshooting** This session shall educate participants about technical issues which could be encountered in a class, including how to identify and deal with them. **Hani Aqeel**
	Dr. Mark Russell Director and Professor & Leigh Powell Instructional Technology Specialist **Center for Teaching and Learning, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi**	
11:00 – 11:50	**Powtoon** This session shall introduce the use of "Powtoon" for animated presentations and videos. **Mona Abdulla Ali Ebrahim**	**Integrating Cloud Computing into Classroom Practice** This session shall discuss the affordances and issues of integrating Cloud Computing into teaching and learning. **Raghda Zahran**
12:00 – 12:50	**Showcasing Explore: The move to a more online environment** Staffing has led to teams considering alternatives to in-class facilitation. This session will consider the process and the time frames involved in moving parts of the Explore course to enable fuller student autonomy, provide evidence of success and remove barriers to staff participation. **Davin Scampton**	**LMS Activities and Resources for the Initiated** Staff have had access to the 'How To' training for the LMS Activities and Resources. It is now time for more pedagogical approaches to be discussed. Staff, grouped by faculty, will be provided with PBL scenarios for which they will provide online solutions. These will then be discussed and created, time allowing. A good working knowledge of the LMS is expected.
1:00 – 1:50	**Library Learning Centre as an enabler of e-Learning** This session shall look into the benefits of database resources and learning resources and how they can be integrated into course materials. **Tom O'Rourke**	**Dr. Mark Russell Director and Professor & Leigh Powell Instructional Technology Specialist** **Center for Teaching and Learning, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi**

Time		
2:00 – 2:50	**Advanced Spreadsheets** This workshop aims to expand capabilities on the more advanced uses of Microsoft Excel. **Hana AlQaidoom**	**Flipped Class with Ed Puzzle** This session shall elaborate on how to utilize Ed-puzzle in a flipped learning context. **Kubra Edhrabooh**

Day 2: Monday, 28th August 2017 ┃ Employability

Time	Stream 1	Stream 2
9:00 – 9:50	**Employability – a holistic construct that requires an institutional approach** This session presents Employability as a holistic construct while outlining the need for an institutional approach. It seeks to clarify what the concept is and how this can be effectively addressed. **Philippe Vande Wiele**	**Bahrain Polytechnic Employability Framework** This session informs on the Bahrain Polytechnic Employability Framework. **Ema Janahi & Shaima Alansari**
10:00 – 10:50	**Bahrain Polytechnic Employability Framework** This session informs on the Bahrain Polytechnic Employability Framework. **Ema Janahi & Shaima Alansari**	**Employability – a holistic construct that requires an institutional approach** This session presents Employability as a holistic construct while outlining the need for an institutional approach. It seeks to clarify what the concept is and how this can be effectively addressed. **Philippe Vande Wiele**
11:00 – 11:50	**Employability skills development in the Engineering Curricula** This session showcases how employability has been immersed into the Engineering curricula and its assessments. **Dr. Christina Georgantopolou**	**The Impact of Employability on Bahrain Polytechnic Students' Performance** This session shall share information from employer surveys, alumni surveys, focus group and graduate destination data. **Abdulridha Dismal & Ema Janahi**
12:00 – 12:50	**Rubric Design for Employability** This session deals with developing effective rubrics for assessing Employability. **Dr. Brian Bennison**	**Employability skills development in the Engineering Curricula** This session showcases how employability has been immersed into the Engineering curricula and its assessments. **Dr. Christina Georgantopolou**

1:00 – 1:50	The Impact of Employability on Bahrain Polytechnic Students' Performance	An Exploration of Bahrain Polytechnic Stakeholder Experiences using E-portfolios
	This session shall share information from employer surveys, alumni surveys, focus group and graduate destination data.	The session reports on research undertaken by the Academic Development Directorate at Bahrain Polytechnic in 2016, and documents the small-scale qualitative study undertaken by the Career and Employment Centre (CEC) to ascertain stakeholder perceptions regarding engagement and views of the use of the e-portfolio to support the development of employability.
	Abdulridha Dismal & Ema Janahi	**Nahed Al Rayash**
2:00 – 2:50	An Exploration of Bahrain Polytechnic Stakeholder Experiences using E-portfolios	Rubric Design for Employability
	The session reports on research undertaken by the Academic Development Directorate at Bahrain Polytechnic in 2016, and documents the small-scale qualitative study undertaken by the Career and Employment Centre (CEC) to ascertain stakeholder perceptions regarding engagement and views of the use of the e-portfolio to support the development of employability.	This session deals with developing effective rubrics for assessing employability.

Dr. Brian Bennison |
| | **Nahed Al Rayash** | |

Day 3: Tuesday, 29th August 2017 | Action Research

Time	Stream	Stream 2
9:00 – 9:50	Introduction to Action Research	Action Research: How to Make it Work in Bahrain
	This session explores the concept of Action Research and its qualities as a distinct research methodology appropriate for use in educational settings. It discusses the 'Action Research Spiral' and looks at the characteristics of 'effective Action Research.'	This session shall clear some existing misconceptions about action research in Bahrain and to make suggestions in relation to what changes are needed for dissemination of action research as a practice in higher education and K-12 schools.
	Dr. Brian Bennison	**Dr. Nina Razzak Academic Consultant, Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA)**

10:00 – 10:50	**Perceptions on the role of Middle Leaders at Bahrain Polytechnic** This workshop will share research findings from surveys amongst Deans, Heads of School and Programme Managers on the actual and perceived role of Heads of School within the institution. Findings will be compared with the literature on Middle Leadership. **Dr. Andrew Thomas**	**Introduction to Action Research** This session explores the concept of Action Research and its qualities as a distinct research methodology appropriate for use in educational settings. It discusses the 'Action Research Spiral' and looks at the characteristics of 'effective Action Research.' **Dr. Brian Bennison**
11:00 – 11:50	**The Use of Group Work in Higher Education** This session shall inform participants on research done to look into the effectivity of group work in a Biochemistry course in terms of student engagement and deeper concept learning. **Mrs. Rabab Asghar Abdulwahab, Quality Manager, College of Health Sciences, UoB**	**Value-free Research** Drawing from the fact that in doing intensive enquiry-based processes such as research, there is the tendency to fall back on personal values which are expressed in one's work. This session shall discuss the assertion that research methodologies and methods cannot be value free. **Ema Janahi & Carolyn Doyle**
12:00 – 12:50	**The Flipped Class** In this session, the participants will be introduced to the flipped learning concept in education. The process and results of an action research project involving 'flipping a classroom' will then presented **Kubra Edhrabooh**	**Establishing and maintaining a positive classroom environment.** This workshop gives participants opportunities to share professional practice around the creation and maintenance of positive climates in the English language classroom setting. It will reference student viewpoints, teacher observation frameworks and the participants' own experiences. **Dr. Andrew Thomas & Carolyn Doyle**
1:00 – 1:50	**Value-free Research** Drawing from the fact that in doing intensive enquiry-based processes such as research, there is the tendency to fall back on personal values which are expressed in one's work. This session shall discuss the assertion that research methodologies and methods cannot be value free. **Ema Janahi & Carolyn Doyle**	**Arabic English Differences** This presentation will discuss some of the Arabic language features that might interfere with the use of English language as a medium of communication in the academic context. This session will outline these features and their impact on the Arab learners. **Mohamed Ghazwan & Nabeel Aman**

Time		
2:00 – 2:50	**Establishing and maintaining a positive classroom environment.** This workshop gives participants opportunities to share professional practice around the creation and maintenance of positive climates in the English language classroom setting. It will reference student viewpoints, teacher observation frameworks and the participants' own experiences. **Dr. Andrew Thomas & Carolyn Doyle**	

DAY 4: Wednesday, 30thAugust 2017 ┃ Problem based-Learning & Project-based Learning

Time	Stream 1	Stream 2
9:00 – 9:50	**Evidence of Impact – Industry's Perspective on the Business School's Industry Project Programme** The session aims to inform the on the findings of interviews with industry partners on their view of the industry based projects. **Annamarie Lawrence**	**PBL contribution to the development of Industry-related Skills & Knowledge** Enhance awareness and appreciation of the strengths of PBL in developing critical industry-relevant knowledge and skills **Luke Chow**
10:00 – 10:50	**Unlocking Professional Identity in Learners Through PBL** This sessions shares good practice around PBL and its ability to unlock professional identity in learners through an authentic and proximal learning experience. **Philippe Vande Wiele**	**Evidence of Impact – Industry's Perspective on the Business School's Industry Project Programme** The session aims to inform the on the findings of interviews with industry partners on their view of the industry based projects. **Annamarie Lawrence**
11:00 – 11:50	**PBL Contribution to the Development of Industry-Related Skills & Knowledge** Enhance awareness and appreciation of the strengths of PBL in developing critical industry-relevant knowledge and skills. **Luke Chow**	**Comics & Culture: How Student Centered Learning (SCL) can work in a creative environment** This session shall showcase samples of student work from the Comics & Culture course through Student Centered Learning and examining how these strategies can be employed in other programmes. **Paul Phillips**
12:00 – 12:50	**PBL Showcase: CAP Maths** This session will showcase the PBL project in Technical Maths in the CAP programme. **Mona Abdulla Ali Ebrahim**	**Using PBL and WIL to develop Strategic thinking in Management students** This session shall present how PBL and WIL supported the approaches that were developed to aid the students in the Management major in understanding the application of strategy tools and theories. **Annamarie Lawrence**

1:00 – 1:50	**Comics & Culture: How Student Centered Learning (SCL) can work in a creative environment** This session shall showcase samples of student work from the Comics & Culture course through Student Centered Learning and examining how these strategies can be employed in other programmes. **Paul Phillips**	**Unlocking Professional Identity in Learners Through PBL** This session shares good practice around PBL and its ability to unlock professional identity in learners through an authentic and proximal learning experience. **Philippe Vande Wiele**
2:00 – 2:50	**Using PBL and WIL to develop Strategic thinking in Management students** This session shall present how PBL and WIL supported the approaches that were developed to aid the students in the Management major in understanding the application of strategy tools and theories. **Annamarie Lawrence**	**PBL Showcase: CAP Maths** This session will showcase the PBL project in Technical Maths in the CAP programme. **Mona Abdulla Ali Ebrahim**

Registration Fees

1 Participant	1 Day	100 BD
1 Participant	4 Days	300 BD
2 Participant (3rd seat free)	4 Days	600 BD

For more information, please contact: teaching.learning@polytechnic.bh