

PROFESSORS WITHOUT BORDERS



In Collaboration With



Presents

Higher Education in the Time of Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities of Online Teaching

Friday 26 June 14:00 BST

As Coronavirus spread around the globe in early 2020, universities retreated behind the screens. Higher education literally moved online, providing an opportunity to discover the joys of technology for some, a gruelling and impersonal experience for others, and something in between for most of us.

This event brings lecturers and students from around the world to share with each other the challenges each have faced in adapting to a new teaching environment. In the first panel, lecturers from universities in Asia, the Americas, Europe and Africa will share the difficulties they encountered, and how they expect to adapt to the 2020-2021 academic term.

The second panel addresses the students' experience with online education, their expectations and hopes, and advice on how to successfully engage with online educational tools in a very competitive cyberspace.

The audience is invited to ask questions of the panellists and add their own experience of online learning in higher education.

Agenda & Speakers

14:00 -14:05

Opening Speech: *Tessy de Nassau, co-founder and Trustee, Professors Without Borders*

14:05 - 15:15

Panel 1: Moving higher education online: pitfalls and opportunities for teachers

Moderator Dr Caroline Varin, CEO Professors Without Borders

- Dr Oscar Palma, Rosario University (Colombia)
- Dr George Richards, Edinboro University (USA)
- Chandni Hirani, African Leadership University (Rwanda)
- Dr Sipim Sornbanlang, Srinikarinwirot University (Thailand)
- Professor Folasade T Ogunsola, University of Lagos (Nigeria)
- Professor Dries Velthuisen, University of South Africa (South Africa)
- Dr Andrew Bell, Oxford University (Oxford)

Some guiding questions:

- How did educators adapt to the transition from face to face teaching to online teaching?
- What are the challenges to teaching during a pandemic?
- What have we learned so far about distance learning and how can we use that to help educators and students?
- What teaching materials are provided by educational institutions for online learning and how do they assist educators/ students?
- Is there a gap between online teaching materials provided by different educational institutions and why? (financial ability, online access etc...).

15:15 - 15:35

Audience Q&A

15:35 - 16:35

Panel 2: Learning online: adaptation strategies from students

Moderator Rachel Warnick, Professors Without Borders

- Kaustubh Dighe, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law (India)

- Adamou Boubacar, African Leadership University (Rwanda)
- Chidi Nwogbaga, University of Pennsylvania (USA)
- Victor Warlop, Technical University of Denmark (Denmark)
- Njomeza Blakcori, University College London (London)

Some guiding questions:

- How would you describe your experience in distance learning?
- What are the benefits and challenges of studying online?
- Are you still able to access the same resources and support from your educational institution?
- What could your teachers have done to make the course more engaging?
- What did they do well?
- How do you maintain your social life while social distancing?
- What economic concerns do students have and how do they can find professional advice? (student loans, online jobs etc...).

16:35 - 16:55

Audience Q&A

16:55 - 17:00

Closing notes

*Please note conference timing will follow British Summer Time (BST)