

The Journal of Social Media for Learning 2023

Editorial

Sarah Honeychurch (Lead Editor), Deb Baff, Mark Breslin, Sarah Hallam, Glenn Hurst, Laura Riella, Gabriella Rodolico and Nina Walker.

The 2021 Social Media in Higher Education Conference (SocMedHE22) was on the theme of [cultivating mutually beneficial learning relationships using social media](#), with the conference taking place over one day on Tuesday, 14th December 2021 using the online platform GatherTown. It was an action-packed day, with our avatars learning to navigate the software (and realising we could not walk through walls or other avatars!) and we all ended the day smiling. We collected together slides from those who used them, and you can find them, and all the abstracts, in the full [programme](#). In this special conference edition we are delighted to showcase four papers based on presentations at the conference.

First we have a paper by Sarah Honeychurch and Matt Offord entitled ‘the co-creation of a digital escape room designed to develop students’ digital confidence’ where they expand their presentation from the conference to talk about the design of a digital escape room by one of their student interns, and feedback from students who used the game in class. This is especially noteworthy as this project was itself inspired by work presented at an earlier SocMedHE conference by Rachelle O’Brien and Scott Farrow, as they acknowledge in their paper.

The second paper in this edition is by Olivia Kelly. In a paper called ‘Using qualitative content analysis of social presence indicators within the Community of Inquiry model’, Olivia writes about some of the research she is undertaking as a doctoral student. She uses the model of Community of Inquiry in order to analyse both students’ perceptions of their social presence as well as their interactions, showing that a content analysis of tweets gives a better picture than (just) a survey.

Third is a paper by Scott Turner and Sarah Honeychurch ‘#SocMedHE: more than a conference’. This paper is a walkthrough of some of the tools that can be used to conduct a Social Network Analysis (SNA). By using these to look at the SocMedHE tweets the authors show that, as the title of the paper suggests, SocMedHE is better characterised as a community than a conference. This paper will be of particular interest to those who are interested in finding out about how to use such tools in order to understand and analyse social media interactions, especially those taking place on Twitter.

Last, but by no means least, is a write-up of the Expert Panel Session. Sarah Honeychurch, chair of the session, reflects on the session and sets the questions answered by the four panellists: Deb Baff, Sue Beckingham, Suzanne Faulkner, Dawne Irving-Bell.

We hope you enjoy reading the papers in this special edition as much as we have.