

Spring Campus, April 1-5, 2019

Workshop: “Education for Sustainability (EfS): Sharing and Strengthening the Teaching and Learning”, April 02-03, 2019

Organized by Robert VanWynsberghe, University of British Columbia and Nina Kolleck, Freie Universität Berlin

Abstract

Education for Sustainability (EfS) seeks to capture the real-life learning that connects knowledge to action through inquiry, especially real-world. EfS helps teachers and students to build a healthy future for their communities and the planet. With regard to ECE, elementary, secondary, post-secondary, graduate school, and adult education, EfS helps sustainability practitioners find real-world links with curriculum and school operations, especially as these relationships encourage parental involvement and community partnerships.

In this workshop, we continue the EfS tradition. We aim to work together to learn about and co-develop a range of activities that promote the development of trans-disciplinary sustainability courses and programs, strengthen capacity for problem-oriented pedagogies and community-engaged practice, and increase the types of experiential research opportunities for students.

Possible Presentations

Ways to:

- increase educators’ ability to bring innovation into the curriculum including opportunities for new courses, programs and experiential learning.
- increase the number of courses and programs that align with key sustainability competencies (holistic systems thinking, sustainability knowledge, awareness and integration, acting for positive change).
- improve the abilities of students to draw upon insights from multiple disciplines.
- expand student awareness of the dynamic nature of knowledge including an ability to evaluate knowledge based on new evidence and perspectives.
- increase capacity of students to use academic knowledge to address community/society priorities. This requires skills and attitudes, applicable to all professions, which enable successful task performance and problem solving on real-world sustainability challenges.
- foster innovative ways in elementary, secondary, post-secondary, graduate school, and adult education to understand sustainability topics and interests which will inform students’ career exploration and development.
- develop and compare (interdisciplinary) instructional methods to address EfS in elementary and secondary education.
- improve student employability and heightened entrepreneurial mindsets.

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Proposed Workshop Activities

1. Work in teams to develop sustainability courses and programs related to the Challenge, and made accessible to students from all Faculties.
2. Collaborate on the main features of course-based experiential learning with applied research projects that develops and deepens students' motivation to bring their disciplinary and experiential expertise to bear on society.
3. Propose methods of addressing EfS in educational settings.
4. Co-design and delivery of 2-week and 4-week intensive courses focused on a key aspect of sustainability or perhaps a current issue.
5. Co-design of a weekend "hack-a-thons" or other arts-based EfS effort to draw together students, faculty, and community stakeholders to focus on the Challenge.
6. Envision future work in EfS that are meaningful for the current and future generations. Anticipate the skills necessary and the best modes of assisting in training.

Participation and contributions to the workshop:

Workshop participants have to contribute to the workshop by sending an abstract of the research project they want to present – including abstracts about new unfinished, conceptual ideas. Please, send your abstracts (600-900 words) to **n.kolleck@fu-berlin.de** or **robert.vanwynsberghe@ubc.ca** until **31th January 2019**. During the workshop (April 2nd – 3rd, 2019), presentations of projects can be done either by a short presentation (10 minutes with 15 minutes discussion afterwards) or a poster presentation session, which is recommended, especially, for PhD students.

The workshop will take place at the annual Spring Campus Conference of the University Alliance for Sustainability. Further information on the conference please see:

<https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/spring-campus/index.html>