

**Title:**                **Using Standards and Frameworks for Freedom and Innovation**

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### **Abstract:**

**Introduction** - One suggested conference theme is possible tensions between creativity, innovation, standards and frameworks. I realise that I have always tried to develop and use standards frameworks to engender, not stifle, freedom and innovation – good kinds of freedom and innovation, obviously. So, this workshop will enable us to explore, and hopefully resolve, the reported tensions.

**Outcome** - The workshop will encourage and support participants to develop ways to use standards and frameworks – whether for teaching, for other forms of supporting learning or for staff and educational development – to enlarge the range and the quality of learning activities and experiences.

**Content** – As a framework, the workshop will offer two contrasting models of curriculum, teaching, learning and development (more accurately these models are two ends of a curriculum spectrum):

- Model A – teaching as delivery of curriculum content; assessment as seeing if content has been learned.
- Model B – teaching as supporting learners to achieve learning outcomes or to meet standards, by whatever appropriate means; assessment as seeing if these outcomes have been achieved, these standards met.

(These models are adapted from my opening keynote session for the Learning and Teaching Conference at Stockholm University, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2005.)

**Participant activities** will include:

- Identifying which standard and / or framework is of particular current interest
- Accordingly joining a relevant group
- Identifying their role(s) with respect to this standard and / or framework (programme designer, assessor, participant, developer...)
- Mapping their current practice with respect to their chosen standard and / or framework in relation to Models A and B
- Determining the extent and limits of their freedom within the standard to adopt new learning or development methods etc.
- Starting to devise or specify learning activities, processes and resources to support the better meeting of the standards.

Time permitting, participants will also be encouraged to identify what features of a standard increase or restrict the scope for freedom and innovation.