

**Title:**                   **Walkshop: creative thinking and peer perspectives on assessment and feedback practice**

**Presenter:**           **Fiona Campbell, Fiona Smart**

### **Session Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- reflect on professional conversations with a conference colleague on assessment and feedback challenges
- consider if walking does enhance their creative thinking
- extol the fabulous views and interesting monuments on Carlton Hill.
- feel exhilarated and energised for the conference programme ahead!

### **Session Outline**

*Interested in identifying fresh ideas and applying a peer perspective to your assessment and feedback conundrums?*

*Keen to kick-start something which has inspired you at the conference?*

*Fascinated to find out if your creative thinking really is enhanced by walking - and by walking outdoors?*

*Eager to be enchanted by Edinburgh's magnificent vistas?*

*Raring to be recharged for the conference programme ahead?*

If the answers to any of the above is yes, please join us for this Walkshop to Carlton Hill. You will be paired with a partner, provided with some optional prompts for your discussion and a map for the short walk and then despatched for some beneficial walking and talking.

Nietzsche's (1889) contention that 'all truly great thoughts are conceived by walking' has been confirmed by recent research (Opezzo and Schwartz, 2014) that has shown that 'walking opens up the free flow of ideas'. Specific experiments conducted by the Stanford research team indicated that participants had a very significant increase in creative thinking while walking rather than when seated and, when they were seated *after* walking, experienced a residual creative boost. The research also evidenced that walking outdoors produced the most novel and highest quality creative thinking.

On your return to the conference venue there will be a short opportunity to view Tweets and photos sent by you and other participants on the walk and to share your views of the experience such as:

*Have you gained new insights about assessment and feedback and your practice?*

*What changes do you plan or when you return to your institution and your students?*

*Was your creativity enhanced through walking?*

*Have you experienced that residual creative boost the Stanford team identified and now feel reinvigorated for the conference programme ahead?*  
We will collate these outcomes and make them available.

## **Session Activities and Approximate Timings**

Once you have signed up for this session, we will contact you to request your walking partnership preference. You will have the opportunity to either:

- opt for a random pairing
- suggest the topic of interest to you and we will aim to pair you with a partner with similar interests
- indicate who you have agreed to partner - they should also provide us with your name.

0-15	Receive map and optional discussion prompts; paired with conference participant
15-30	Walk from conference venue to top of Carlton Hill discussing one participant's assessment and/or feedback challenge
30-45	Explore monuments on summit of Carlton Hill. Optional Tweeting of views, thoughts and photos.
45-60	Return from Carlton Hill to conference venue discussing the other participant's assessment and/or feedback challenge
60-90	Reflect briefly on outcomes and share experiences. View Twitter feed.

The walk from the venue to the top of Carlton Hill is very short (10-15 mins) and involves walking on city pavements and then a short steep climb on two flights of steps and a path. At the top there are monuments to explore and wonderful views across the city and over the River Forth to Fife to sigh over. The monuments include an acropolis and two observatories and there is also a small art gallery and cafe. Further information available at <http://www.edinburghguide.com/parks/caltonhill> and in McHardy, S, Smith, D *Calton Hill, Journeys and Evocations* (2014).

Please wear appropriate flat footwear for the path (walking boots not required). In the event of rain, a covered alternative walk will be offered.

## **References**

McHardy, S, Smith, D (2014) *Calton Hill, Journeys and Evocations* Luath Press 2014

Nietzsche, F (1889) *Twilight of the Idols and the Anti-Christ: or How to Philosophize with a Hammer* First published 1889 (republished by Penguin Classics 1990)

Oppezzo M, Schwartz DL (2014) *Give your ideas some legs: the positive effect of walking on creative thinking* Journal of Experimental Psychology Learning Memory and Cognition 2014;40(4) American Psychological Association