

Keynote Address: Developers in a time of challenge and uncertainty

2018 has been a year of rapid change, uncertainty and criticism of further and higher education. While some changes like TEF are arguably encouraging a greater teaching focus at some universities, others, facing a sharp drop in income or a concentration on research, are asking whether educational development is a luxury. This keynote will offer some provocations from words/phrases which stand out for me in the conference title: ***supporting*** staff to ***meet increasing challenges*** in Higher and Further Education

First **'Supporting'** What has happened to educational development over the last 15-20 years that can be characterised as being about supporting staff? Can we situate our activities in a historical and political context? What does *supporting* mean in the current context, in relation to SEDA values and what else might we need to do? As a DVC what do I want educational developers to do?

Second **'to meet increasing challenges'** will be considered in relation to SEDA's original mission and current educational development work inside our universities and colleges. Do these challenges help or hinder us as educational developers? For example do they help us critique established educational practices and usher in change or do they question the value of current university practice and call on developers to manoeuvre around our values? Finally, in the spirit of SEDA, given the challenges of the current political climate, what should be the SEDA manifesto and as educational developers what should we do next?

To encourage dialogue I'll be posting questions and thoughts on twitter (hashtag #sedachallenge) two weeks before the keynote. The keynote will include a number of debating points, linked to the twitter discussion and dialogue with delegates live at the event.