

Fables and fairy tales – how can technology really enhance learning?
Professor Susannah Quinsee, City University London

There are lots of myths surrounding the application of technology to learning – so often the heralded promises of technology never deliver. Yet, when used appropriately technology has the potential to be a transformative tool which enables us, as academics, to rethink, our interactions with learners. How can we get beyond the hype to the real benefits of technology for education? What can we do differently as educational developers to encourage and support staff and students in realising where technology can add value and where it doesn't?

In this interactive presentation, Susannah will explore these ideas – with a lot of help from yourselves! We will explore what challenges and realities we had already faced in terms of working with educational technologies. We will then look at what we need to do in the future to be better prepared – one thing we can be sure about is that “technology” won't go away. And we'll also explore whether it is helpful or not to separate out technology from other forms of our academic practice.

Much of this presentation will be delivered remotely, due to Susannah being very pregnant with twins, making use of appropriate technologies!

Biography

Professor Susannah Quinsee is Director of Learning Development and Chair in Learning and Teaching Development at City University London. She leads the Learning Development Centre (LDC) which encompasses educational development and technology enhanced learning activity for the University. The LDC is a central service, academic department and a research active centre. Previously Susannah was Head of E-Learning and Associate Director of Information Services and Libraries also at City University London. In this role she managed the implementation of e-learning at the University. She was Chair of the Heads of E-Learning Forum (HeLF) Steering Group from 2007-2011 and as a founder member of HeLF still remains on the HeLF Steering Group. Susannah has worked as a lecturer and in academic support roles at a number of other higher education institutions in the UK. In 2011, Susannah became a National Teaching Fellow. She has considerable experience in the areas of online learning, student support, implementing learning and teaching strategies and project management in relation to higher education. Susannah's current research focuses on leadership and change management in relation to learning development, developing communities of practice in higher education and engaging staff in new learning and teaching methodologies, particularly using technology.