

Title: Ketso Connect – Learning together *and* apart

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Learning Outcomes

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

- Know about a pandemic-inspired innovation that has been used with over 900 students
- Utilise a hands-on kit (or pencil and paper proxy) in short learning exercises, blending physical and online learning
- Explore the potential for a hands-on learning aid to build learning communities in blended, face-to-face and hybrid settings
- Understand the possible benefits of Ketso Connect for helping students to structure their thinking and writing, and to make connections between different aspects of their learning
- Plan a range of learning exercises using the hands-on learning aid, Ketso Connect

Outline

The pandemic created an urgent need to effectively engage with learners remotely. A new hands-on learning aid, built on University of Manchester research (Tippett et al 2007), was developed in time to be sent to students in September 2020. Ketso embeds research findings into a physical kit for face-to-face workshops and learning. This hands-on kit, launched in 2009, is used in 77 countries and over half of the UK's universities (with 71 peer-reviewed outputs and an international teaching excellence award, Tippett et al, 2011). Tippett and How (2020) distilled principles of coproduction from 25 years' action research using Ketso, allowing rapid development of a new way to use Ketso bringing the physical approach into online settings, called Ketso Connect.

Ketso Connect is an individual pack, which each participant uses offline in live and asynchronous learning, with pictures shared online. The durable, reusable kit has been provided to 948 students, at the following universities: Manchester Metropolitan (520 kits), University of Manchester (240), Leeds (21), Ravensbourne (21), Glasgow (10), Nigerian Federal Petroleum (20) and Ohio State (30), in addition to 122 workshop participants and 215 practitioners/academics internationally.

In a 2020 survey of fifty students, thirty-four agreed it increased 'engagement and focus during live teaching': "One of the first on-line tutorials when I have not been distracted. I was fully engaged"; "It strengthens the sense of teamwork, and makes me feel more confident to speak up." Thirty-seven agreed it helped 'structure thinking and learning': "Visual organisation and categorisation as I move [thoughts] around helps with development of ideas."

Ketso Connect has demonstrated its ability to build bridges between remote learners. The characteristics that make Ketso a successful platform for group-work have proven to bring powerful benefits to individual learning. This pandemic-inspired innovation has great potential impact for future remote, hybrid and face-to-face learning.

Activities and Approximate Timings

The workshop will be interactive, with small group discussions based on prompts. Participants will be encouraged to develop answers to questions in short, offline exercises, and take photographs of these reflections on a mobile phone or tablet to be uploaded to Padlet so that they can be shared in small group discussion. There is no need to download any software.

- 10 minute introductions and overview of Ketso as a pedagogic and engagement approach
- 5 minute introduction to Ketso Connect – the new hands-on learning aid developed in response to the pandemic
- 10 minute breakout session - interactive experience of using Ketso Connect – discussing the creative opportunities and advantages of bringing hands-on learning into physical spaces
- 10 minute questions and discussion in plenary
- 10 minute presentation on ways Ketso Connect has been used and feedback from students to date
- 20 minutes – interactive use of Ketso Connect and Padlet to explore range of ways participants could use the kit and to develop developing physical / digital session plan ideas
- 10 minutes – plenary discussion of key points and feedback

This workshop can be experienced without actually using the physical Ketso Connect kit, using pencil and paper or (even better) post-it notes AND/OR COLOURED PENS/PENCILS instead. Participants would, however, get more from the workshop if they have access to the Ketso Connect.

The social business Ketso is making a special offer of a discount price for conference delegates who chose to purchase this durable, reusable kit for use in the workshop and in their project planning, teaching and writing afterwards. The kit is being offered at the bulk discount price of £24 for individual kits (excluding VAT). Use discount code SEDA2021 at checkout - <https://ketso.com/product/ketso-connect/> (offer available until July 15).

Preparation before the session

We will be using a digital tool called Padlet to harness and share ideas during the workshop. Padlet can be used on your computer or on a second device such as a mobile phone or tablet. You won't need to download anything (you just open it up on a web-browser) and you'll still be able to participate if you cannot access Padlet.

If you get a chance, check you can access Padlet and complete a quick optional pre-workshop warm-up exercise at: <https://ketso.padlet.org/joannetippett/unecf0udouc8ii7v>

It is helpful, but not essential, to have this Padlet open on your mobile phone browser at the start of the workshop.

Participants can peruse the case studies and recent information about Ketso Connect before the workshop, but it is not essential. <https://ketso.com/blog/>
<https://ketso.com/portfolio/supporting-learning-during-the-pandemic-manchester-metropolitan-university/>

References and sources

- Tippett, J., Connelly, A. and How, F. (2011) [You Want Me to Do What? Teach a Studio Class to Seventy Students?](#) *Journal for Education in the Built Environment* 6 (2): 26–53.
- Tippett, J., Handley, J. and Ravetz, J. (2007) Meeting the challenges of sustainable development – a conceptual appraisal of a new methodology for participatory ecological planning, *Progress in Planning*, 67(1): 1-98.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.progress.2006.12.004>
- Tippet, J. and How, F. (2020) Where to lean the ladder of participation: a normative heuristic for effective coproduction processes, *Town Planning Review* 91(2): 109–132
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