

SEDA Keynote Abstract 2024

Academic developers and HE change: a postcard from the past to the future

What scary times we live in! So many challenges for universities: mental health and wellbeing issues (for staff and students), deep inequities, students who can't afford to study full time, constant funding problems, revolutions in technology, and serious questions about the whole meaning and purpose of HE, to name a few.

I've witnessed 40+ years of such challenges in HE, leading to unprecedented changes in every aspect and at every level of the sector, and there's much more to come. Just as well there are academic developers around! Academic developers have always had to deal with hard challenges, so we are well placed to support our colleagues and institutions, whatever lies ahead.

I think of this keynote as a postcard from my experiences of the past to you academic developers of the future. We have such strengths in our ways of thinking and practising as academic developers, and should enter the next stage of HE development with confidence, knowing we will play key roles in that development. What are these ways of thinking and practising that we bring to the table?

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