



COL CHAIR WEBINAR

Openness and Open Education Practices in Distance Education

Overview

Openness in education encompasses diverse interpretations depending on one's perspective. The varying usage and comprehension of this term, along with its complex and multifaceted nature, have recently been underscored by Bozkurt et al. (2023)*. Their analysis of 54 scholarly testimonials regarding the significance of openness in education illuminates these disparities. The concept of openness, coupled with open education practices, harbours the potential to effectively address challenges pertaining to accessibility, affordability, cultural resonance and educational excellence within distance education. These practices hold the capacity to support both individuals and institutions, enabling them to provide education that is comprehensive, flexible, and aligned with the needs of specific contexts.

The forthcoming webinar will explore the multiple dimensions of openness and open education practices, along with their inherent possibilities and challenges, across diverse contexts. It will provide practical examples of how individuals and higher education institutions can foster a culture of openness, collaboration and innovation, leading to increased adoption of open education practices and the widespread availability of high-quality open educational resources.

*Bozkurt et al. 2023. *Openness in Education as a Praxis: From Individual Testimonials to Collective Voices*. *Open Praxis*, 15(2), pp. 76–112. DOI: <https://openpraxis.org/articles/10.55982/openpraxis.15.2.574>



Date and Time:

Wednesday 30 August 2023

South Africa/CAT 2:00 PM

GMT 1:00 PM

Pacific time 5:00 AM



To register:

Please use the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN/WxJHe92IRPKXxC5Fq1tgdw>

Panellists



Professor Geesje van den Berg is a Full Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instructional Studies at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and a Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Chair in Open Distance Learning (ODL) for Teacher Education. Her research focuses on student interaction, academic capacity building, openness in education and teachers' use of technology in ODL. She leads a collaborative academic capacity-building project for UNISA academics in ODL between Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg in Germany and UNISA.

Professor Patience Kelebogile Mudau is an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instructional Studies, College of Education, UNISA. She is involved in the coordination of the Online Teaching and Learning Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) project between UNISA and the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. Her research interests are academic capacity building, open education practices, and technology-enhanced learning.



Professor Cosmas Maphosa a Full Professor of Education Management and the Director of the Institute of Distance Education at the University of Eswatini, Eswatini. He holds a Master of Education in Open and Distance Learning from UNISA and is currently pursuing a second PhD in Open and Distance Learning at the same University. Cosmas has authored a number of articles and has successfully supervised a number of PhD candidates. He has extensive experience in higher education and Open and Distance Learning.

Professor Samuel Amponsah is an Associate Professor in Open Distance Learning and currently heads the Distance Education Department of the University of Ghana. He is a fellow of the Global Challenges Research Fund and was recently a fellow of the Andrew W. Mellon/BECH Africa project. Samuel's primary areas of research have been adult learning and open distance learning. In the past few years, he has developed a keen interest in inclusive education with a niche in visually impaired students learning online.

