



COL CHAIR WEBINAR

Open, Flexible and Distance Learning (OFDL) and Teacher Education: Prospects and Challenges

Overview

Preparing teachers for a rapidly changing world poses serious challenges while offering promising opportunities. This panel discussion will focus on the contemporary educational landscape, the opportunities it affords, and, more importantly, the challenges it presents to teachers, teacher educators and their professional development. Some of the issues and topics to be covered include the following:

- Teacher education then and now
- Continuing professional development of teachers then and now
- The multi-dimensional nature of teacher education via OFDL (balance between subject matter knowledge, pedagogy and technology)
- The role of design in the development of teacher education programs (getting the mixture right between subject matter knowledge, pedagogy, and technology).



Date and Time:

30 April 2024

3:00 am GMT / 6:00 am Türkiye / 8:30 am India/
Sri Lanka / 1:00 pm Melbourne, Australia / 3:00
pm New Zealand

29 April 2024, 8:00 pm Vancouver, Canada



To register:

Please use the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wWcbx7dmRlyvFo_XfsdQFQ

Moderator



Professor Shironica P. Karunanayaka is a Senior Professor in Educational Technology at the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). She is a former Dean of the Faculty of Education, and former Head of the Department of Secondary and Tertiary Education, OUSL. Professor Karunanayaka has been an academic at OUSL since 1993. She holds the Degree of Doctor of Education from the University of Wollongong, Australia, specialising in Information Technology in Education and Training. Her key research areas include ICT in education, learning experience design, open educational resources, and open educational practices. She served as an Honorary Adviser to the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) during 2019-2021. From April 2023, she is appointed as COL Chair (Teacher Education).

Panellists

Professor Som Naidu is the former Pro Vice-Chancellor (Flexible Learning), and Director of the Centre for Flexible Learning at the University of the South Pacific, and currently Principal Associate of Technology, Education and Design Associates—a Melbourne based educational technology consultancy service. Dr Naidu has spent most of his professional life in the higher education sector in a variety of roles to do with enhancing learning and teaching in open, flexible, distance, online learning and distributed learning, and education more generally in a variety of jurisdictions. A former president of the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA), Som has served as Executive Editor of the journal *Distance Education* since 1997.



Professor Vasudha Kamat is well known for her significant contribution to the field of Educational Technology/Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education. She has contributed significantly to Higher Education, Teacher Education, Women's Education, and Open and Distance Learning. Presently, she is Chairperson, Governing Board, CEC (Consortium of Educational Communication), an Inter-University Centre of UGC. She was a member of the National Education Policy Draft Committee constituted by the Government of India, based on which the NEP-2020 came into vogue. NEP-2020 is considered a game-changer for India. She was the Vice Chancellor of SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, India during 2011-2016. She intensely advocates the integration of ICT in higher education and the use of learner-centred pedagogies.



Professor Cheryl Brown is Head of the School of Educational Studies and Leadership and Co-Director of Te Puna Rangahau i-Ako, the Digital Education Futures Lab at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Cheryl's research is centred around access to information and communication technologies and how they facilitate or inhibit participation in learning. She has led multiple funded research projects on digital education leadership, personal mobile devices in learning and teaching and developing e-learning professionals in Africa.



Professor Hasan Ucar is an Associate Professor of Distance Education at Anadolu University, Türkiye. He also serves as Vice Dean of the Open Education Faculty at the university. Dr. Ucar received his Ph.D. (2016) and master's degree (2012) in Distance Education from Anadolu University. Hasan's current research agenda is the motivational design of instruction in online distance learning environments. Additional areas of research include motivation and engagement of online learners and online academic procrastination.