

New Vistas | Policy, Practice and Scholarship in Higher Education

EDITOR'S NOTE

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TEF, an emergent REF2021 set of rules, and uncertainty about a post-Brexit future seem to dominate the UK higher education landscape at the moment. TEF's aims to recognise and reward excellence in teaching and learning are shaping university endeavours. Two of the articles in this issue focus on the learner experience and how it can be transformed by innovative approaches to assessment and feedback. Madar has explored the use of the PechaKucha presentation style as a mode of assessment for students. The claim is that innovative assessment methods can provide students with the skills that are widely sought after by employers. Murphy and England examine the notion of student feedback as a key benefit to the provision of quality teaching in the HE sector, drawing from a study in psychology.

Brexit's grave repercussions are very relevant to the theme of Alnahed's article which aims to enhance our understanding of the role that news media play in shaping public opinion and how we can equip students with the knowledge and tools to produce journalism that is worthy of its title as the 'fourth estate'. The paper argues that Brexit, the ensuing 2017 General Election, and the treatment of controversial political figures make the need for an assessment of print, broadcast, and online journalism very pertinent.

From the social to the societal, Flax's article highlights the significant impact that hate crime has on both individuals and communities. She claims that the word 'victim' only takes its full meaning when it is examined against the social context in which an offence takes place and the social recognition any group might have gained to qualify as victims.

Closer to home, Whitfield and Cachia discuss how employee stress is having a significant impact on individuals in a working environment. The claim is that, striving towards a positive work environment, prevention is definitely less costly than interventions through Employee Assistance Programmes – both for the individual and the organisation.

Finally, two contributions explore areas that the University of West London has significant expertise in, in the field of hospitality and tourism and identify changes and future directions in the sector. Roper discusses the restructuring of the corporate hotel industry and examines the industrial economic drivers that have facilitated this change. Reddy evaluates the progress of the commercial space tourism industry following the setback caused by the Virgin Galactic crash in 2014 and discusses opportunities and challenges in the current political and economic climate whilst exploring directions for researchers in this field.

Professor Stylianos Hatzipanagos
New Vistas Editor

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MISSION STATEMENT

New Vistas is published by the University of West London (UWL) and provides a forum to disseminate research, commentary, and scholarly work that engages with the complex agenda of higher education in its local, national and global context.

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We welcome thought-provoking scholarly contributions from external and internal authors, with the explicit intention to give a voice to early-career researchers and scholars.

Email: newvistas@uwl.ac.uk

Twitter: #UWLNewVistas

Web: www.uwl.ac.uk/research/new-vistas-journal

University of West London

St. Mary's Road, Ealing, London W5 5RF

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