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Time to Go Online? Pivoting, blending, and what we know about what works

Before the change to online teaching triggered by the Sars-Cov-2 pandemic in spring 2020, e-learning in most campus-based institutions in Ireland was supplementary to face-to-face teaching. For many years, the virtual learning environment (VLE) or learning management system (LMS) was used to carry course materials and facilitate some forms of interaction and assessment. Research suggested that online learning was somewhat under-used, with constraints on staff time contributing to this. However, almost overnight, this landscape has changed completely with what has been called the “pivot online” (Weller, 2020). Campuses closed and teaching, learning and assessment moved to the VLE/LMS and a range of other systems. In this keynote, the disruption of this change will be explored and contextualised in what we know about the evolution and development of e-learning in higher education over the last two decades, what practices are likely to be more or less effective, and how past and present experience might help us to plan usefully for the future. Drawing on recent developments in learning theory and how it has been applied to the design of teaching and learning activities in higher education, some practical actions will be identified and shared.

Going all online - teaching practice, learning design and assessment
Thursday, 18.3.2021 · 9:00 online (via Zoom)