

RESEARCH TOPIC

Enhancing Digital Competences in Youth Education

Dr Michael Flannery

Michael is a Senior Lecturer in Visual arts and Curriculum integration, imagination and innovation (C3i) across a number of undergraduate and master degree programmes. Both programme modules explore the potentiality of technology enhanced teaching and learning for visual arts inquiry and embracing C3i in planning, delivery and assessment. He completed a postdoctoral MSc in Technology and learning to enhance personal/ professional TPACK for education and training. His MSc 'Capstone' project evaluated the use of Scratch software to improve observational drawing. It specifically evaluated its impact on developing students' sense of proportionality, placement and inter-positioning in their drawings (Figure 1).

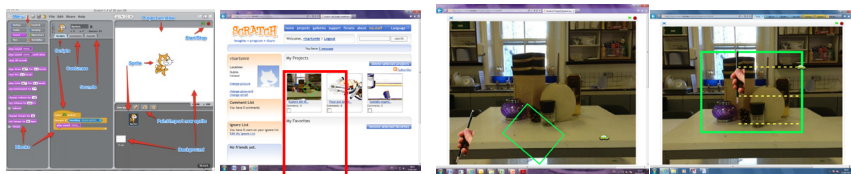


Figure 1: Modifying Scratch technology to teach observational drawing

His thesis evaluated the impact of multi-user virtual environments on visual arts inquiry in relation to scale related constructs. It specifically examined the effectiveness of a specially designed gallery space in Second Life titled AISLE (Art investigation in Second Life environment) on participant's understandings regarding scale-related constructs in visual arts (Figure 2).

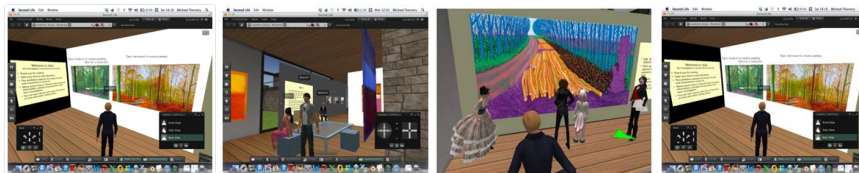


Figure 2: Students interacting with artworks and peers in AISLE

He recently completed a local impact evaluation case study as part of a joint project entitled Digital Skills in Action. The case study evaluated the impact of MUVE Second Life functionality on visual, critical and digital literacy. The focus of AISLE concerned movement, musicality and mood in visual arts. The project partners are Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology; Marino Institute of Education (MIE); National College of Art and Design; Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. The project is funded under Phase 1 of the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund. The joint project aims to bring together expertise attained in Southern Cluster Higher Education Institutes in Ireland around the area of building digital literacy capacity among staff and more effective engagement with students through online tools.



Researcher Profile

Dr Michael Flannery is a Senior Lecturer in Education at Marino Institute of Education (MIE), an associated college of the Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. He has been employed in this capacity for the past fifteen years. His work is focused on the preparation of student teachers for their future employment as creative practitioners in the primary classroom. His key teaching responsibilities include Visual Arts and Curriculum Integration, Imagination and Innovation (C3i). His postgraduate studies and research interests concern visual arts education, multi-literacy development, cross curricular learning and technology enhanced learning (multi-user virtual environments). Michael also works as an external examiner for St. Patrick's College, a college of Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland.

Contact details:

michael.flannery@mie.ie
+353 1 8057727



About Marino Institute of Education

Marino Institute of Education (MIE) is a Dublin-based teaching, learning and research community committed to promoting inclusion and excellence in education. It has a long and proud involvement with education, specifically initial teacher education (ITE), dating back over 100 years.

MIE's academic programmes are validated, quality assured and accredited by Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. MIE is an Associated College of Trinity, and this relationship has deepened through the development of a joint academic strategy to promote closer and more extensive collaborations in teaching and research, including joint activities between the two institutes. Through the implementation of this joint academic strategy the strengths of Trinity will be leveraged with those of MIE, to enhance existing relationships and promote new synergies.

In the last decade, the academic mission and scope of MIE's activity has been re-envisioned to encompass a deeper understanding of education in and beyond the classroom, to incorporate the continuum of teacher education and the education of specialist education practitioners at early years, primary and further education levels. This is allied with a commitment to education studies encompassing non-traditional education settings and the wider education environment in a pluralist context.

MIE's Mission

MIE is a teaching, learning and research community committed to promoting inclusion and excellence in education. The dignity and potential of each person are central to our life, work and service.

MIE's Vision

MIE will be a centre of global consequence, in teaching and research in the field of education. Through collaboration and technology, it will extend its geographic boundaries and create momentum for the delivery of new, high quality, innovative programmes in education. MIE will build critical mass for world class research in partnership with others, and will foster university-school-community links that contribute to sustainable improvement and renewal across the entire education system.

MIE will extend its commitment and expertise in the area of inclusion by continuing to conduct research and providing education programmes to empower the socially disadvantaged. MIE will lead national and international dialogue regarding the opportunities and challenges pertaining to pluralism and diversity in education settings.