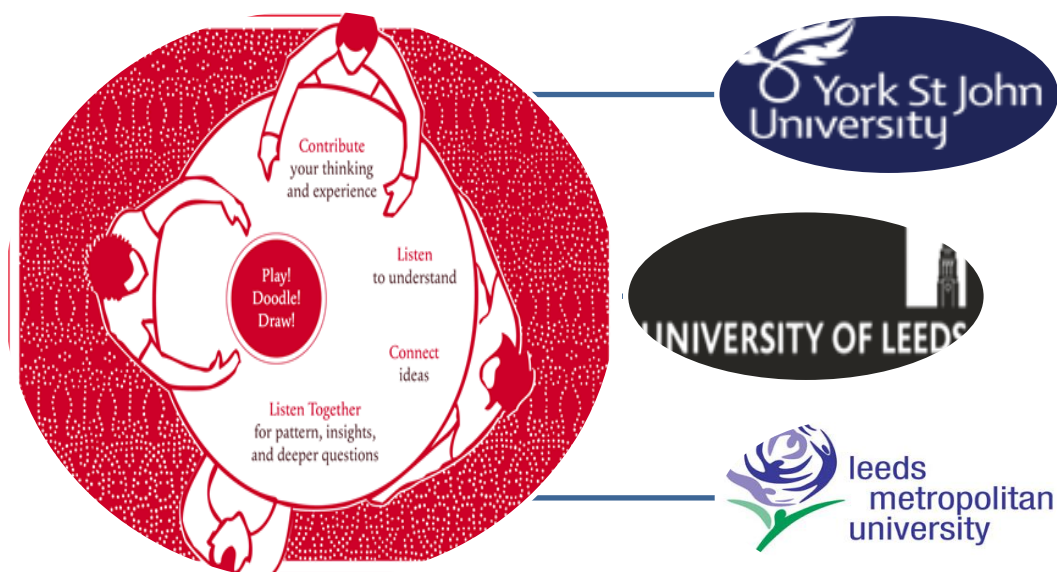


World Café – Networking to Discover Learning about Networks



Hosts

Jenny Hall, York St John University,

Kairen Skelley, Leeds University

Stephen Griffiths, Leeds Metropolitan University

The Rules

Rather than spend 1 hour talking about networks the hosts demonstrated a live networking tool the – World Café this methods provides participants with an opportunity to engage in a structured discussion that tackles a key open question. (Café Guidelines attached) Over 50 people attended. The participants were divided into 3 groups, chaired by the 3 hosts. Everyone that came along to the session had the opportunity to explore three questions:

These Questions resulted in the following Feedback from each session:

Best practice for connecting the curriculum with networks? – Jenny Hall

- The effectiveness of establishing enterprise champions across the academic teaching staff
- Co-curricular approach for embedding enterprises working groups established across the University can be a good places to develop the practices of academic teams.
- The use of business advisory boards to ensure that enterprise is delivered in a way that meets employer needs
- Running master-classes over a 10 week period has proved successful
- YSJU Higher York Partnership are conducting research that looks at Graduate Destinations in greater depth than the DHLE – deeper questions regarding the pre-start up and voluntary work graduates are engaged in are being explored. In particular creative grads are prone to

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not declaring that they are practising. Specific questions need to be devised to tease out data re: freelancing and sole trader 'creating your own job'.

- The evolving nature of entrepreneurial DNA should be reflected through ground-up curriculum development
- Projects that are client based are far more effective
- Making enterprise compulsory – a need for a cultural change at institutional level
- The use of NSS stats to offer help to programmes that are suffering from poor results can be a means of winning hearts and minds.
- Many do not go into the programmes but offer support 'The Creative Graduate' programme co-ordinated by Winchester and Solent Uni's is a key example.
- The use of CRM and sharing contacts.

Best practice for encouraging students to participate within extra-curricular activity? – S. Griffiths

- Numerous University collaborations were mentioned offering students enterprise support:
 - o Graduate Entrepreneurship Yorkshire and Humber
 - o Speed Plus – Wolverhampton, Keele, Coventry, Staffordshire, Birmingham City
 - o Combined Universities of Cornwall
 - o Birmingham, Aston and Warwick
 - o EMIN Enterprise Solutions, currently managing Enterprise Inc 2 and PIKT.
- Nurture students in your Enterprise / Business societies
- Foster Graduation Communities as a basis for networks
- Speed Networking between students and Alumni has proved successful
- Generally recognised that having a "student" focused speaker / training course was a must
- It did appear that any distance between partner institutions deterred their students partaking in events off their own campus. Here the Leeds Enterprise Network has the advantage for being very city centric.

Best practice for connecting or developing networks to support incubation? – K. Skelley

- Could we include businesses who weren't in Leeds by some form of virtual presence or online platform
- Should we be offering this to other businesses outside the University environment
- No one offered any advice on how to expand the contact with the existing businesses.

Thank you for attending the session. We all enjoyed the experience and trust that applied to all the attendees.