

MSc in Digital Education: Dissertation research proposal

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A constellation of image, text and sound: exploring multimodal assessment in the digital classroom

Abstract

Advances in digital technology are helping to reshape assessment within higher education. In particular, a shift towards multimodality sees tutors and students employing a growing range of new media when designing and responding to assignment tasks. The digital classroom at once provides opportunities and challenges for tutors. In particular there arises a need to consider how to use and then measure the quality of multimodal artifacts. In this dissertation I will take a qualitative approach to explore the multimodal assessment practices within the MSc in Digital Education at The University of Edinburgh. Research questions will include how tutors rationalize the use of multimodal assessment and how they shape assessment criteria in order to judge the quality of artifacts that present ideas across a range of modes. In addition, I will use cross-disciplinary observation to determine whether programme designers and tutors can learn from the assessment practices of colleagues in art and design and architecture, where it is the established norm for students to present ideas across a range of modes.