Innovative Pedagogical Inquiries

Using Self-Study Research to Inform Practice

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Professor Emerita of Education

Keynote Address
Ionian University, Center for Teaching & Learning
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AGENDA

- Celebrating our partnership in learning & teaching
- Introduction to self-study research method
- Author your research question
- Work with supportive trusted colleagues
- Enacting self-study of teaching
- Self-study learning communities
- Self-study resources

PARTNERS IN LEARNING AND TEACHING

This initiative generated from The International Academic Partnership Program (IAPP) in partnership with the **Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and Fulbright Greece** and the facilitators who served **as delegates to the IAPP Pharos Summit**, a high-level forum **to amplify the strength of the U.S.-Greek higher education collaborations and partnerships.**

George Mason University

Ionian University

We have the capacity:

- to learn by exploring our teaching practice.

- to develop each others' capacities as learners.

What do expert teachers do?

- Demonstrate openness to continuous learning

- Study their teaching to improve their practice

- Dialogue with colleagues for reciprocal learning and reciprocal mentorship

Self-Accountability

➤ At the forefront of a teacher's professional development

➤ Self-initiated ~ meaningful and sustainable

➤ Assess from the first person.

➤ Assess with trusted colleagues.

➤ Assess dynamically and continuously.

Dispositions of Pedagogical Innovators

a willingness to:

1. Explore

2. Embrace mistakes

3. Cultivate

4. Collaborate

5. Experiment

6. Learn

7. Share

Constantine, Samaras, & Smith, 2014

How might we re-imagine our pedagogies using self-study research?

INTRODUCTION TO SELF-STUDY RESEARCH METHOD

What is self-study research ?

A qualitative research genre for systematically examining one's practitioner work/role in any chosen field and discipline of study for improvement-aimed purposes and with contributions to that educational field

*Requires critical collaborative inquiry

Self-study is beyond the self.

How do my hybrid learning techniques impact community building among my students?

Environmental Education & Technology: Using a Remotely Operated Vehicle to connect with nature

Mark Gleason, Michigan Technological University
Laurie Harmon, George Mason University

Self-Study Methodology
There are multiple methods of self-study

- Virtual Bricolage

- Personal History

- Collective Self-Study

- Arts-based Self-Study

- Poetic Inquiry

- Memory Work
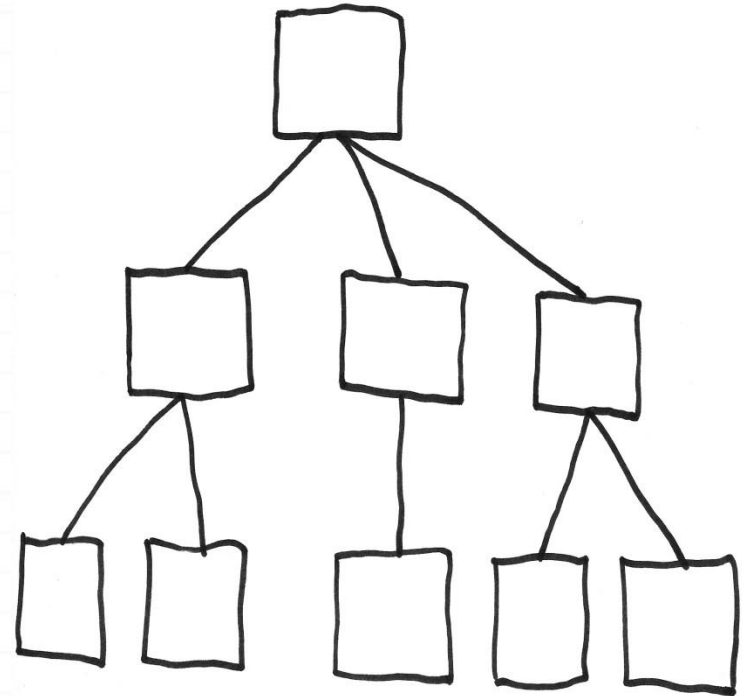
O Inter-cultural Self-Study: *Communicating across cultural boundaries as critical friends; e.g., across countries, organizations, and various groups*

O ....And more!

Who conducts self-study, why, and how?

Who:

• ANY practitioner, practice, discipline, university and country

Why:

• Personal, professional, program renewal
• Personal professional accountability and agency
• Promoting social justice in education
• Reforming in the first person with colleagues
• Advancing knowledge of your field and education

How:

• Self-study scholars can use multiple research methods.
• Methodologically inventive

The Multiplier Effect

Greek Teacher Professional Development Project. Fulbright Greece, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U. S. Department of State and George Mason University (2010-2012)

Self-study is transnational, transdisciplinary, and transcontinental.

Self-Study of Teaching in Korea

http://mason.gmu.edu/~asamaras/selfstudy.htm

혁신교육·창의연구·열린소통
비상하는 전남대학교

...년도 1차 '교수법 워크숍'

교수 스스로 수업 분석 방법 컨설팅

"What do you want to improve most in your teaching and professional practice?"

■ 강사: Anastasia P. Samars.

■ 일시: 2016. 3. 23.(수) 14:00~16:00

■ 장소: 진리관 7층 701호 e-강의실
　　　　여수 산학연구관 3층 화상강의실

■ 신청: 교수학습지원센터 교육력 연구개발부(☎530-2339)

전남대학교 기초교육원
교수학습지원센터
Center for Teaching and Learning

AUTHOR YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION

I want to help my students synthesize and make connections and applications of what they are learning in my classroom to the real world.

How to begin your self-study*?*

- Begin with your question.

- **What do you most urgently want to improve/understand in your practice?**

- *I am curious to ...*

Set a deadline and goal:
- *teaching new course*
- *a conference presentation*
- *a publication*

Locating your research topic using innovative strategies

Imagine an artifact or object which might represent your topic.

*What do you bring to this inquiry?

*What is the boundary of this inquiry?

*Who benefits from exploring this inquiry besides you?

WORK WITH SUPPORTIVE TRUSTED COLLEAGUES
aka "critical friends"

Organizing Support

"Critical Friends" Trusted colleagues who seek support and validation of their research to gain new perspectives in understanding and reframing their interpretations through reciprocal mentorship

ENACTING A SELF-STUDY OF TEACHING

5 Foci

Self-Study Methodology

1. Personal Situated Inquiry

2. Critical Collaborative Inquiry

3. Improved Learning

4. Transparent and Systematic Research Process

5. Knowledge Generation and Presentation

(Samaras, 2011)

7 Key Design Components

(Samaras, 2011, p. 114)

1. Author your research question.

2. Establish your critical friend team.

3. Observe your context/environment.

4. Articulate rationale and proposal.

5. Frame your question within literature.

6. Align your question with self-study method.

7. Plan purposeful inquiry/pedagogies.

What's a self-study look like?

Margret A. Hjalmarson, Professor of Mathematics Specialists Leadership

I conducted a self-study about my decision-making and role as an instructor for an online, synchronous course for mathematics specialists

Data:

- Journal reflections throughout the semester for each class session
- Anonymous surveys (mid-semester and end-of-semester)
- Researcher Memos

Results:

student autonomy and engagement

authenticity and practicality

fostering community

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Where Innovation Is Tradition

Learning to teach mathematics specialists
in a synchronous online course: a self-study

Margret A. Hjalmarson

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Pedagogical Inquiry

I was both exploring new ways to design the course and also adapting pedagogy from my previous teaching experiences in face-to-face courses.

Questioning Assumptions of Practice

I needed to examine beliefs and assumptions about my teaching as a mathematics educator and how they would be manifested in the online teaching environment.

YOUR SELF-STUDY OF TEACHING

YOUR QUESTION

WORK WITH COLLEAGUES

THINK DESIGN

MANAGEABLE

USEFUL

DATA

RESULTS

Self-study can be methodologically innovative in the data used to elicit and generate data for analysis

- mood boards, found poetry, and letter-writing (Pithouse-Morgan & Samaras, 2014);

- found poetry and interpretive poetry (Samaras et al., 2015);

- rich pictures, found poetry, rhythmic poetry, and improvisational dance (Pithouse-Morgan et al., 2016);

- word clouds, lantern poetry, and Tanka poetry (Pithouse-Morgan & Samaras, 2019);

- memory pieces, double voice poetry, Tanka poetry, and dialogue (Pithouse-Morgan & Samaras, 2020a);

- dialogue, mnemonics, and metaphor (Samaras & Pithouse-Morgan, 2020);

- mnemonics, metaphor, rich pictures, word clouds, keyword poetry, and dialogue (Samaras & Pithouse-Morgan, 2021)

- tapestry poetry and dialogue (Pithouse-Morgan & Samaras, 2022b).

Seth Hudson
Computer game design instructor

How is my instructor identity and practice affected by moving a traditionally face-to-face course into the online format?
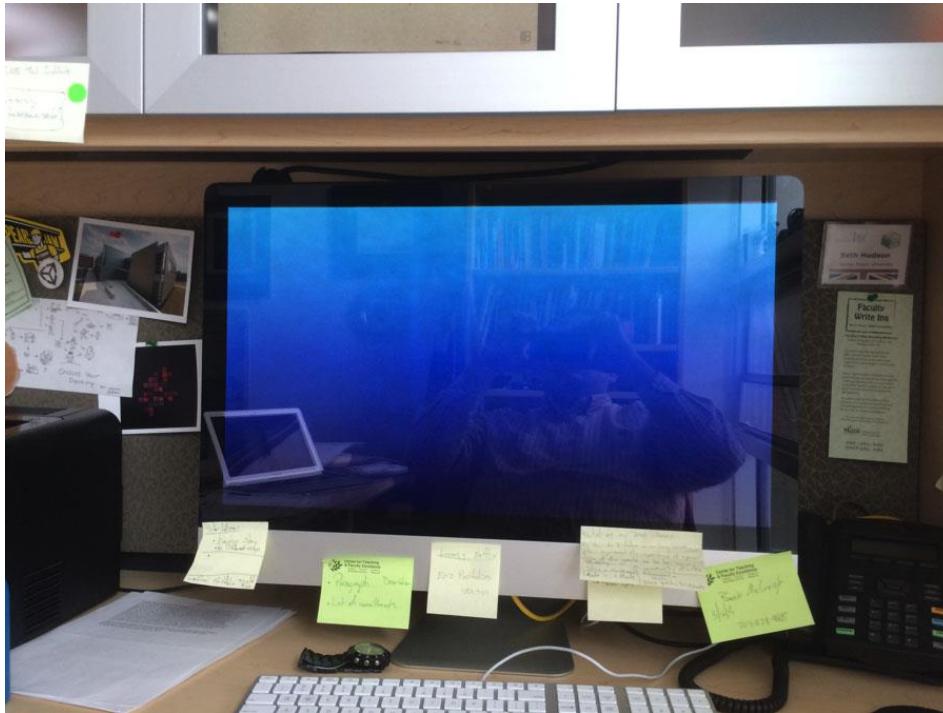
SELF-STUDY LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Faculty Self-study Learning Community

Scholars of Studying Teaching Collaborative
(SoSTC)
George Mason University, Virginia, USA

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Where Innovation Is Tradition

Kirk Borne
Computational and Data Sciences

How Self-Study has Changed the Way I Teach Science
Kirk D. Borne, Astrophysicist, GMU (2011)

How can I integrate a scientific research experience for the students in my science classes, and thus reduce my dependency on a lecture style of teaching?

Self-study can also be topic-based in a learning community with individuals conducting individual self-studies.

Scholars of Studying Teaching Collaborative on e-Learning (SoSTCe-L)

Scholars of Studying Teaching Collaborative on e-Learning (SoSTCe-L) GMU, 2012-2013
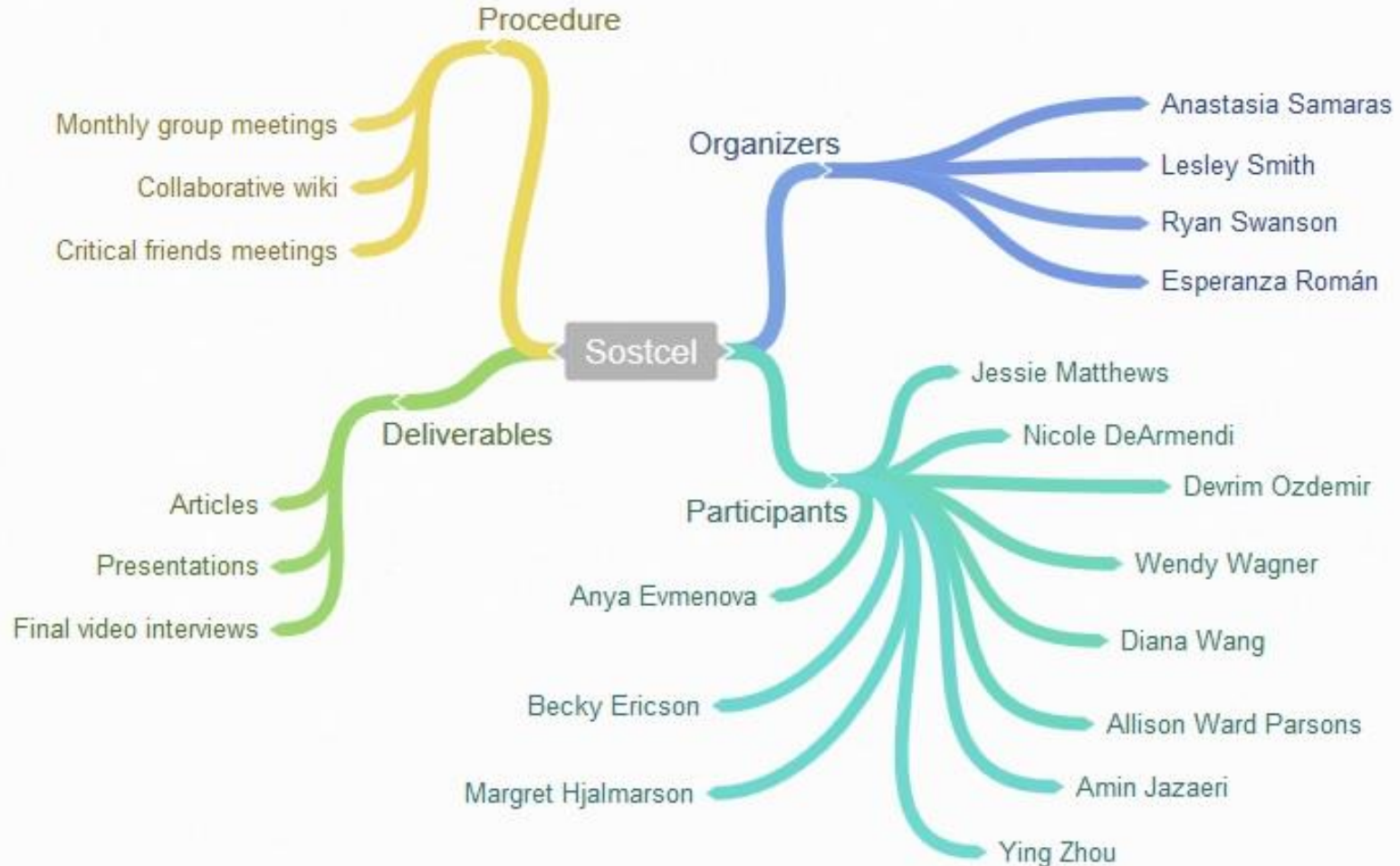
ESPERANZA ROMÁN MENDOZA

Modern Languages

How does my perception of the effectiveness of instructional technologies influence my students' engagement with technology?

I learned about

- my students' perceptions about as my role in modeling an effective use of instructional technologies.

- the importance of giving students more guidance if they are to be asked to reflect on their own learning process.

- my lesson plans and what actually happens in the classroom are not always the same.

Self-Study Scholars' Collaborative (S^{3}C) on the Visually Rich Digital Learning Environment

-

How can I teach complex management concepts by <u>VISUALLY</u> explaining them to my students?

Shawn Lee, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Hospitality, Tourism and Event Management

Do's and don'ts of convention program planning

The Teaching Inquiry Group (TIG)
National Science Foundation Sponsored

Designed for STEM faculty interested in

- ➢ Self-study of teaching practice of interactive teaching

- ➢ Publishing in educational journals

Theory of Change

IF

STEM faculty are supported in designing small changes in their teaching to engage students

AND

STEM faculty participate in a supportive community with critical friends

THEN **Over time,** faculty will

1. continue to make incremental and ongoing changes
2. engage in scholarly self-study of their teaching.

Vasiliki Ikonomidou

Bioengineering Department and Electrical
and Computer Engineering

Examining Choice in Self-directed Tiered Homework Assignments in College-Level Engineering Courses

How can I could develop interventions that allow engineering students to implement differentiated learning adjusted to their own needs, while shifting the choice to them rather than to the faculty?

Self-Study Resources for Further Reading

- International Handbook of Self-Study
- Studying Teacher Education Practices SIG, American Educational Research Association
- Biennial Castle Conference 1996-2023
- S-STEP Community
- Studying Teacher Education Journal

Faculty Cases

Examples of Self-Study Dissertations

Dissertations with Self-Study Embedded
- Example 1 (See page 82)
- Example 2 (See page 227)

Contact Information

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/asamaras/