

'Welcome to the Online Discussion Group': Towards a Diagnostic Framework for Teachers

HKU Constituent Theme-
Languages, Media & Communication:
Language in Education & Assessment Seminar Series

Speaker
Dr Kristina Love
Faculty of Education,
The University of Melbourne, Australia



1 December 2006 (Friday) 12:45- 2pm
LG 01, Hui Oi Chow Science Building, HKU

Abstract

Asynchronous online discussion has been lauded as a powerful communication tool in education, particularly in adult, tertiary and distance education contexts where it offers a capacity for building online academic communities that would be difficult to maintain in physical space. Yet considerably less support is available for teachers attempting to build such cyber-communities in school contexts (Lapadat, 2005) than that in the tertiary context. One particularly rich potential of the online mode is for young people to exchange opinions about the literature they are reading, whether this be through commercial book sites, state education web forums or individual school forums (Love, 2002, 2005; Love & Simpson, 2006). In this presentation, I examine some features of text-response discussions across these forums and offer a contribution towards the development of diagnostic framework for establishing and managing such discussions. Such frameworks may enable teachers to avoid simply reproducing old pedagogic practices in new technological skins (Lankshear & Knobel, 2003) or worse still, validating a new mode of structural inequity and disadvantage, as they work with online discussions.

Dr Kristina Love is Head of the Language and Literacy Academic cluster in the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne. She teaches the subjects 'Doing Discourse Analysis' and 'Language Education: Functional Perspectives' in the Masters program and supervises Ph.D. students in related areas. Her main research interest is in classroom discourse, and the discourse of online text response discussions. She is immediate past president of the Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association. She has led a team in the development of the CD ROM 'Building Understandings in Literacy and Teaching' and is currently developing another multimedia product, 'Scaffolding Literacy in the Content Areas'.

This seminar is co-organized with
Office of Research, Faculty of Education, HKU.

All are Welcome. Enquiries: 2859 2395