

## **Wales Centre for Creative Pedagogy: art, design & media**

### **What is it?**

Colleagues representing all HE art, design and media institutions in Wales, the University of Wales, and a number of FE providers, are in the process of developing an all-Wales Centre for Creative Pedagogies for art, design and media – the WCCP-ADM for short. Our aim is to build a sustainable community of practice which will raise the status of creative pedagogy in Wales and gain national and international recognition. Primary objectives are to energise and inspire practitioners, share best practice, encourage collaboration and promote innovation. Our ultimate aim, (apart from world domination), is to become a leading international training, resource and research centre, with the ability to effect and lead policy.

### **Why Wales?**

Due in part to funding differentials and to different systems of governance, teaching and learning at HE-level within Wales has arguably been less celebrated, and the sharing of good practice less supported, than in other parts of the UK. In addition, an historical tendency to view ourselves socially and culturally as the junior partner within the home countries has acted as a disincentive to making our voices heard. The Centre will provide a focus and a platform, both virtual and physical, for the distinctive voices of educators and students in Wales, helping to build confidence and collegiality.

### **Why is it needed?**

John Danvers suggested that art and design educators are involved in an emancipatory and transformative education. We wholeheartedly believe that, but we also believe that many of the most exciting pedagogic ideas and approaches are suffocated in their cradles as educators are beset on all sides by rising SSRs, cuts in resources, funding, space and time. Nonetheless, the fact is that, at our best, ADM educators are inspirational, radical and highly effective. The WCCP is intended to restate and then amplify that fact, initially within art, design and media but eventually, we hope, across all disciplines.

### **The story so far...**

The Centre has to be inspirational, inclusive and participatory, otherwise it will not be sustainable. The key, we believe, is ownership.

Stage 1 was therefore to engage the key players - FE and HE lecturers in art, design and media. Colleagues attended a one-day symposium which resulted in the co-design of the WCCP vision and strategy (see below). Participants volunteered to become creativity champions in their own institutions, to sit on the steering group and to share their research. Collegiality and enthusiasm was in abundant supply along with sunshine and cream cakes.

Stage 2 was to extend the connections to ensure that all Welsh institutions were included, and to make contact with individuals at a senior institutional level and across organisations such as ADM-HEA and HEA-Wales in order to strengthen support.

At the same time, we began to look for funding (as you might imagine, we are still working on this one!). Annie and I were recently awarded a national teaching fellowship by UW which has provided some start-up money, and we are about to put in a bid to ADM.

And now we are in the process of setting up a Project Group on a 'task and finish' basis to launch the Centre by easter 2012. Colleagues continue to be enthusiastic, despite time constraints and we are continuing to extend engagement, maintain democracy, encourage participation and, we hope, ensure ownership. Our official ambition is to make the WCCP a leading training, resource and research centre, and a policy driver; a more profound ambition is to create a truly sustainable and inspirational community of practice.

To date we have over 30 participants, representing all HE ADM institutions in Wales: in alphabetical order; Aberystwyth, Bangor, Glamorgan, Glyndwr, Newport, Sir Gar, Swansea Met, Trinity St Davids, University of Wales and UWIC.

All suggestions / offers of help / participation very welcome. We'll let you know how we get on!

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**SUSTAINABLE**

**building a  
community of  
practice**

**raising the status  
of creative  
pedagogy**

**gaining  
international  
recognition**

energise  
practitioners

share  
best practice

inspire  
(cross-disciplines)

encourage  
collaboration

promote  
innovation

**national & inter-  
national training  
courses**

**national &  
international  
dissemination**

**support innova-  
tive reflective  
practice**

**initiate research  
projects**

**support emerg-  
ing researchers**

ejournal  
publications  
case-studies  
policy reports

conferences  
seminars  
e-discussion groups  
student-led events  
exhibitions

training  
mentoring  
collaboration  
research

e-library  
archives  
video resources  
visual resources

creativity champions  
steering group  
automatic membership  
PhD students

**leading  
international  
training centre**

**leading  
international re-  
search centre**

**POLICY DRIVER**