Engaging for Impact: An Exploration of Global Trends Affecting Academics’ Connections to Community

Wade Kelly is a PhD candidate in Information Studies at Charles Sturt University in Australia. The focus of his research is community engagement; how and why universities and academics engage with external communities.

Wade has a background in education (masters and bachelor) and has, for the last 15 years, been working with adult learners in both public and private institutions in various capacities, including as an Instructional (Educational) Designer for seven years.

Wade is passionate about knowledge dissemination to non-academic audiences and is excited about the differences institutions can make in communities and society through their expert specialised knowledge. As part of his mission to make learning more accessible to the general public he brought Nerd Nite to Wagga.

Academics are increasingly being asked to demonstrate the impact of their research beyond the university’s walls. Although academics participate in various community engagement activities with a range of communities (e.g., industry stakeholders, the general public, research participants, government policy makers), academics’ experiences as they engage outside of academe have not been explored in detail.

This gap means universities cannot adequately provide support to academics for community-engagement activities (Harley et. al., 2010). Similarly, universities are ill prepared to support societal impact measures and there has been a dearth of research into the area. Societal impact measures may require a shift in universities to further value (for example) the community service activities that can lead to societal impact. Yet the nexus between community-engagement and societal impact has received little academic attention.

This presentation will review research on societal impact trends, globally, to consider how scholars who participate in community engagement may be positioned to lead the way as universities respond to a changing accountability landscape.

Additional information about Wade Kelly is available at www.wadekelly.com

**EVENT DETAILS**
12:00-1:00pm
Wednesday 4 May 2016

School of Information Studies Seminar Room, Building 05
Charles Sturt University, Wagga Campus

This session can be attended remotely via Adobe Connect: http://connect.csu.edu.au/infostudies-seminar/

For more information about this Seminar or the Seminar series, please contact:
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