

‘Re-wiring Teaching and Learning: Hope Circuits for a Just Academic Future’

On 12 June 2025 EDIN members worked with Jessica Riddell to apply her ten conceptual tools, described in her recent publication *Hope Circuits. Rewiring Universities and Other Organizations for Human Flourishing*, to challenges they had identified in their practice. After the work with Jessica the group wrote about what they had learned together. The following is a digest of the ideas surfaced in that reflective writing exercise.

Critical reflection

- Question longstanding ideas, concepts and received wisdom for their relevance and validity now.
- Slow down and pause. Take time to go back to basics rather than just moving from one thing to another.
- Listen to your heart and/or your gut.
- Stay in the uncertainty.
- Problematise how we might demonstrate impact beyond metrics.
- We have a range of strategies and need to carefully consider which ones work best.
- Articulate what we believe as a way of contributing to the conversation.

Positivity and joy

- Check your cynicism. Quoting Arthur Ashe: Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.
- We are all wrestling with similar issues and many of us are suffering from expectation overload. Try not to get disheartened and overwhelmed by the demand and the persistent challenges.
- Try to find joy in the work for yourself and for others.
- We need to nurture ourselves in order to be agents of hope.
- Be open to hope.

Work with students

- Remember to practice what you preach. For instance, if you are advocating for partnering and co-enquiry with students, try doing this work yourself in your programmes or other professional learning events with colleagues.
- Talk and listen to students.
- Involve students in hopeful and sustainable visions of the future.

Amplify inclusion and connections towards change

- Provide opportunities for staff to interact in multiple means and modes.
- Promote teaching and learning, and research as complementary.
- Things change. We can be agents of change.
- Intentional communities are powerful.

Colleagues who attended the 12 June 2025 event: Laura Costelloe, Derek Dodd, Alison Farrell, Orla Hanratty, David Jennings, Claire McAvinia, Caitríona Ní Shé, Fiona O'Riordan, Íde O'Sullivan, Tazila Ramputh, Anna Santucci, Ana Schalk, Suzanne Stone.

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