Thought Fest 2009

an opportunity for real networking

5-6 March 2009

What is Thought Fest 2009?

Thought Fest is a two-day event being organized by Pontydysgu with the support of the JISC Evolve network and the European Mature-IP project. The event will bring together researchers in Technology Enhanced Learning in an open forum to debate the current issues surrounding educational technologies and discuss how and where research impacts on practice and where practice drives research.

Who is Thought Fest aimed at?

Thought Fest is an event for researchers and practitioners in the area of Learning Technologies.

When is Thought Fest 2009?

Thought Fest will be held in March, 5-6.

Where is Thought Fest taking place?

The workshop will take place in Manchester, UK, hosted at the University of Salford.

How can you get involved?

We will provide the physical space for discussion, debate, and exchange of ideas in a relaxed environment. But of course, for that to happen we need your help shaping the event.
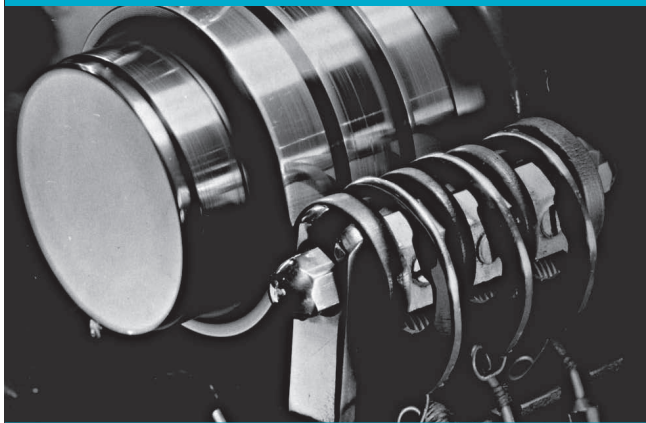
Are you up for the challenge?

Tired of having a passive role when taking part in events in your field of research? Would you like, at least for once, to take part in an event where people actually do what they preach, that is communicate and collaborate with people in your field instead of talking at them? If yes, here is your chance to do so. In order for this to happen we need people to help us organize the Spring Thought Fest 2009. Please submit your interest about taking active part in the Thought Fest. Apply to co-organizing one of the possible event sections described below. Alternatively, send us your own ideas on how you think a part of this event should be organized, and how you would like to help us approach the different issues concerned with Technology

a chance to explore educational issues with an international group

Here are some ideas for activities at Thought Fest

TEL Fair: Let's share it in the open. What about setting a learning stand and try to sell others our practice / our research project / ideas? We were thinking of the following scenario: 4 Researchers / 4 stands = each speaker will prepare their presentation for 15 minutes and try to sell their story – a project they want to create, a project they are working on and want to disseminate, research results they want to share – every 15 minutes the audience has to rotate to the next stand. Interested in being one of Thought Fest TEL Fair sellers? Please email us your interest with a small description of what you are selling and what you will need in terms of technology / facilities.

Debating ideas: Let's form a round table about a topic we are passionate about, and invite others to a lively discussion. Just send us a topic you would like to debate, and together we will gather a group of people interested in taking part in it. And may the conversation begin!

Researchers Corner: Stuck with the research (question)? Could use some feedback on the working in Progress? Then let's organize a friendly researchers' corner (bringing together senior and young researchers in the field) and share our concerns, questions, research process, etc. Let's mentor one another!

Workshop time! Would you like to offer a hands-on workshop during the Thought Fest? Is there a TEL area we could explore together? Suggest a workshop you would either like to offer or which you would like to take part in.Together we will try to find ways to host it during the two-day event.

Other ideas Welcome! You may have other ideas, issues, questions and concerns, as well as other formats in mind. Please let us know what you would like to discuss and how you think we could best organize this event. Just get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

Sit back and enjoy

The event will also feature two keynote sessions – one on each day.
1. The first day will be keynoted by Graham Attwell opening the Thought Fest with a talk on the 'Future of learning'.
2. The second day will open with a keynote by Steven Warburton on 'Transitional design for future learning' and feature the virtual world teaching project MUVEnation – with Second Life presence hosted virtually by Margarita Perez Garcia with the MUVEnation participants.

Who can take part and what support is available is available for attendees?

The event is open to everyone working in this field. But we have limited places and we will be keeping numbers to a level that will encourage a productive and intensive interchange of ideas. Please tell us as soon as possible if you are interested in attending. Support is available but limited: The Mature IP project may be able to assist members of the project consortium. We will sponsor lunches and an evening social event. Accommodation for 2 days will also be provided. However, you will have to seek funding for your own travel. Manchester has good access to cheap flights from many European countries.

What is in it for you?

This is a great opportunity to meet and collaborate with researchers in your area. It is a chance to explore educational issues with an international group. It is an opportunity to participate in building a roadmap for the key research questions of the future. And whatever the outcomes, we do promise some serious FUN!

Submissions and registration

Please send to Cristina Costa, University of Salford, UK.
Email: c.mendesdacosta@salford.ac.uk
All submissions and requests for registration will be acknowledged. For more information and online registration go to www.pontydysgu.org/thought-fest
Deadlines: All submissions should be received until Jan, 31
Notification of acceptance: Will be until Feb, 8

Organising team

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