

SDL Conference 2019

The Research Focus Area SDL hosted their third international self-directed learning conference on 4 to 7 November at the picturesque Cradle Moon Lakeside Game Resort in Krugersdorp. The theme for the conference was: SDL research and its impact on educational practice. The conference kicked off with a Hawaiian-themed cocktail function. Conference delegates were given Hawaiian flowers to wear around their necks and were entertained by the research focus area's own music group, Self-Direction.

The Tuesday morning (5 November) kicked off with the first keynote speaker, Prof Shirley Walters of the University of the Western Cape (UWC). She is an NRF B-rated researcher in adult education, lifelong learning, higher-education research, transformation, professional development, blended learning and critical thinking. The theme of her plenary session was: "The drought is my teacher: Navigating climate crises as an educator".

Prof Lynda Baloche of West Chester University in Pennsylvania was the second keynote speaker for the conference. She started Wednesday with her presentation: "Where do we go from here?"

Prof Lynda is an expert in SDL, especially in cooperative learning. Her presentation also followed an interactive approach that actively involved conference delegates. Her research focus is on cooperative learning, pedagogy and teaching, professional development, collaborative learning, critical and creative thinking and lifelong learning.



On Wednesday night the conference gala dinner was held, with conference delegates having the opportunity to interact with one another outside an academic context. From the feedback received, it was clear that the opportunity was well used to build professional and social networks.

The executive dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof Lloyd Conley, was the guest speaker at the event. Among other things he expressed his gratitude for the work of the SDL to enhance a community of practice. On Thursday morning the conference concluded with a panel discussion on the theme: "Are we adequately equipping learners with the necessary skills for the 21st century?". Members of the panel discussion included Mmoni Gabuue (BEd Honours student, currently working at the Department of Education), Francois Naude (former teacher and lecturer at UJ's Faculty of Education), Herman Matthee (curriculum manager at CURRO Holdings National) and Gordon Sekano (MEd student at the NWU, as

well as young teacher). Johan van Lill of RSG (Ons en die onderwys) led the panel discussion and made valuable contributions. He also conducted several interviews with conference attendees that have already been aired on RSG, and are available for download in a podcast format (see the following link:

<https://iono.fm/e/772736>

Presenters at the conference included members of SDL, postgraduate students of SDL, colleagues from other universities in South Africa, colleagues from CURRO Holdings, an SDL postgraduate student from Pakistan, a colleague from Florida Atlantic University and a co-host from Canada, who presented by means of video conferencing facilities.

The SDL is very pleased with another successful conference and is very grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2019 conference.

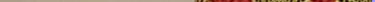
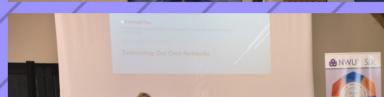
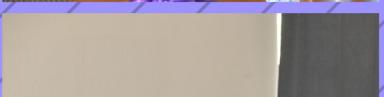
Living in a changing climate
Crises as an educator

Shirley Holloman
November 2018

NWU SDL

• "People need to look further than short-sighted with regard to presbyopia."

- Part of the solution: We have to make problems we've never been faced with before.
- He makes it clear though that he believes that the optometrist will believe something will happen.
- "I disagree with the optometrist because I believe something will happen."
- Brynjolfsson and Fortin's choice to ensure that the optometrist is inclusive, and shared by all."



SDL Konferensie 2019

Die Navorsingsfokusarea SDL het vanaf 4 tot 7 November hulle derde internasionale konferensie oor selfgerigte leer by die prentjiemooi Cradle Moon Lakeside Game Resort in Krugersdorp aangebied. Die tema vir die konferensie was: SDL-navorsing en die impak daarvan op die opvoedkundige praktyk. Die konferensie het met 'n skemerkelkiefunksie met 'n Hawaii-tema afgeskop. Konferensiegangers was met Hawaïiese blomme om hulle nekke getooi en is deur die navorsingsfokusarea se eie musiekgroep, *Self-Direction*, vermaak.

Die Dinsdagoggend (5 November) het afgeskop met die eerste hoofspreker, prof Shirley Walters van die Universiteit van die Wes-Kaapland (UWC). Sy is 'n NNS-B-gegradeerde navorser in volwasse onderwys, lewenslange leer, hoëonderwysnavorsing, transformasie, professionele ontwikkeling, vervlegde leer, en kritiese denke. Die tema van haar praatjie was: "*The drought is my teacher: Navigating climate crises as an educator*".

Met haar voorlegging: "*Where do we go from here?*" was prof Lynda Baloche van West Chester Universiteit in Pennsylvania die tweede hoofspreker vir die konferensie, wat Woensdag geopen het. Prof Lynda is 'n kenner in SDL, veral in koöperatiewe leer. Haar aanbieding het ook 'n interaktiewe aanslag gevolg, wat konferensiegangers aktief betrek het. Haar navorsingsfokus is op koöperatiewe leer, pedagogie en onderrig, professionele ontwikkeling, samewerkende leer, kritiese en kreatiewe denke en lewenslange leer.

Die gala-ete vir die konferensie is Woensdagaand gehou, waar konferensiegangers die geleentheid gehad het vir interaksie met mekaar buite 'n akademiese konteks. Uit die terugvoer wat ontvang is, is dit duidelik dat die geleentheid goed benut is om professionele en sosiale netwerke te bou. Die uitvoerende dekaan van die Fakulteit Opvoedkunde, prof Lloyd Conley, was die gasspreker tydens die geleentheid. Hy het onder meer sy waardering uitgespreek vir die werk wat SDL doen om 'n gemeenskap van praktyk te bevorder.

Die konferensie is Donderdagoggend afgesluit met 'n paneelbespreking met die tema: "*Are we adequately equipping learners with the necessary skills for the 21st century?*". Lede van die paneelbespreking was: Mmoni Gabuue (BEd Honneurs-student, werk tans by die Departement van Onderwys), Francois Naude (voormalige onderwyser en lektor by UJ se Opvoedkunde-fakulteit), Herman Matthee (kurrikulumbestuurder by CURRO Holdings nasionaal) en Gordon Sekano (MEd-student by die NWU, asook jong onderwyser). Johan van Lill van RSG (Ons en die Onderwys) het die paneelbespreking geleei en waardevolle bydraes gemaak. Hy het ook verskeie onderhoude met konferensiegangers gevoer – wat reeds op RSG uitgesaai is. Die onderhoude is beskikbaar om in potgooi-formaat afgelaai te word (sien die volgende skakel: <https://iono.fm/e/772736>).

Aanbieders by die konferensie het ingesluit lede van SDL, nagraadse studente van SDL, kollegas van ander universiteite in Suid-Afrika, kollegas van CURRO Holdings, 'n SDL- nagraadse student van Pakistan, 'n kollega van Florida Atlantic Universiteit, en mede-aanbieder van Kanada wat deur middel van videokonferensiegeriewe ingeskakel het.

Die SDL is baie tevrede met nog 'n suksesvolle konferensie en is baie dankbaar teenoor almal wat tot die sukses van 2019 se konferensie bygedra het.