SoTL in Human Movement Sciences: Moving Forward in South Africa

Cornelia Schreck, Alirethu de Plessis, Dané Coetzee, Christoff Bisschoff, Cobus Oosthuizen, Sam Kahts-Kramer
Physical Activity, Sport, and Recreation (PhASRec), North-West University, South Africa | cornelia.schreck@nwu.ac.za

Step 1: To SoTL (or not) in Human Movement Sciences
- The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) was only recently identified as a priority by the South African Council of Higher Education (CHE 2017).

Step 2: Forming and maintaining a SoTL community of practice
- Engagement with SoTL in the tertiary education sector is increasing (Slammert et al. 2020; Christiansen and Slammert 2006).

Step 3: The future – where to from here?
- SoTL is an emerging focus (Kim et al. 2021), particularly within HARS.

Take-home message
The members of our CoP found:
- Being part of a CoP is a central motivator (Kim et al. 2021; Simmons et al. 2013).
- Engaging in SoTL is influenced by personal factors including motivation, personality, emotion, career stage, etc. (Zuber-Swerlick et al. 2015).
- In South Africa the "either-or" mindset to SoTL and discipline-specific research inhibits academics to engage in SoTL.

Take-home message
Participants in our CoP found:
- Joining a CoP alleviates pressure for lecturers across disciplines and career stages.
- Applying PALAR principles within a CoP enhances success.
- Collaborating with colleagues outside of your daily work provides fresh perspectives on the SoTL journey.
- A CoP fosters in-person discussions, research projects, and reflections, ultimately improving teaching and learning practices of its members.

Take-home message
From our experience, these are the next steps:
- Utilize participatory action research to shape CoP and global collaborations.
- Embrace a future-focused mindset on understanding our students' identities and developing partnerships, leveraging technology, nurturing mental wellbeing, and fostering 21st century skill development.
- Let evidence-based solutions steer policy initiatives and ethical conduct.
- To ensure the sustainability of SoTL, bold and visible initiatives are necessary to combat ignorance and apathy.

Policy Change
- Evidence-based practice
- Ethical considerations
- PAR approaches

Common Goals
- COMMON GOALS
- Plan / Process
- Outputs
- Ideas
- Research

Teaching and Learning
- COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
- Knowledge and contribution to scholarship...
- Partnerships
- Work-integrated learning
- Blended learning
- COMMON GOALS
- Process that is gradually changing and evolving.
- Like any other relationship, it goes through different stages and depends on several different factors...

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