

SoTL in Human Movement Sciences: Moving Forward in South Africa

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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 (Tierney 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 HMS.

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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, ect. (Zuber-Skerritt et al. 2015).
- In South Africa the "either-or" mindset to SoTL and discipline-specific research inhibits academics to engage in SoTL.

ractice

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.

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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.

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