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[Podcast Review] 60-Second SoTL, produced by Jessie L. Moore at the Center for Engaged Learning at Elon University

https://www.centerforengagedlearning.org/podcasts/60-second-sotl/

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The 60-Second SoTL podcast is edited and produced by Dr. Jessie L. Moore, a professor of professional writing and rhetoric and the director of the Center for Engaged Learning (CEL) at Elon University in North Carolina, USA. Dr. Moore is ideally suited as the producer of a scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) focused podcast as she is an accomplished leader and author in the field. For example, in addition to serving as CEL Director, Dr. Moore has also authored several books and is the recipient of multiple professional awards, such as the 2019 International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Distinguished Service Award and the 2021 Distinguished Scholars Award from Elon University. Listeners can easily access this information on the podcast's hosting website, which also provides links to selected pieces of Dr. Moore's SoTL work. As a result, Dr. Moore's expertise in the SoTL sphere facilitates the clear discussion of the essential aspects of each episode's featured SoTL work, which directly contributes to the seamless synthesis of podcast episodes.

Each episode of the 60-Second SoTL podcast provides a concise one to four minute annotation of one or two recent pieces of SoTL. The SoTL work featured in each episode covers diverse sub-topics in the field of teaching and learning in higher education, including (but not limited to) metacognition, feedback literacy, student engagement, the first-year student experience, mentorship, online learning, and support for SoTL initiatives. As a result, this podcast is likely to be of particular interest for the broad readership of *Teaching & Learning Inquiry*, such as post-secondary educators motivated to implement current pedagogical practices in their respective classrooms or institutions, faculty members and graduate students who may tune in to inform their existing SoTL initiatives or to inspire new project ideas, and/or undergraduates interested in gaining evidence-based insight into how they can best support their own learning and student experience during completion of their degree. While the hosting website includes a link whereby listeners can suggest SoTL work that they would like featured in future episodes, it is unclear if other methods for selecting featured literature are used. With that said, as the featured work highlights authors with a range of expertise and experience in the SoTL field, listeners can gain unique insight into the diverse perspectives and approaches on engaging in SoTL that may inform their own future scholarship efforts and/or teaching practice.

The overall structure of the 60-Second SoTL podcast follows a clear and well-organized format, which is demonstrated in at least three ways. First, with the exception of a brief gap in episodes released in the latter half of 2024, the podcast has largely followed a regular schedule since

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its launch in 2022, with one new episode released each week on Thursdays. While Dr. Moore has hosted the majority of the 56 episodes published to date, additional scholars have served as hosts for selected episodes in recent years, which offers listeners a good balance of consistency and variation in narration. Second, since each episode provides a snapshot of distinct SoTL work, episodes are self-sufficient and therefore do not follow a specific sequence or defined seasons. This is likely beneficial for listeners, many of whom are presumably limited on time, because it offers them the flexibility to tune into any episodes with confidence that they will be able to grasp the information, even if they have not listened to previous episodes. With that said, some sequentially released episodes center on one broad teaching and learning theme, such as the first-year experience, SoTL literature and support, or collaborative projects. This offers a gentle structure within the context of an overall flexible podcast framework. Third, the one-to-four minute episode length is ideal because it directly supports the podcast objective of providing listeners with a focused overview of one or two recent SoTL publications. This compact format is likely to be appealing to listeners who aim to stay up-to-date on the emerging SoTL literature but who lack the time or are not interested in engaging in long-form reflective or analytical discussions. Moreover, the compact format may also serve as an ideal introduction to those who are new to the SoTL landscape and/or are interested in gaining a global perspective on the current state of the field. The format may also promote awareness of SoTL work that listeners may have not otherwise encountered via their own independent literature searches.

The efficiency with which listeners may digest bite-sized episodes is also enhanced by the fact that the podcast is accessible on the hosting website in addition to an array of online podcast platforms such as Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, and Google Podcasts. The hosting website and podcast platforms are easy to navigate using either an online web browser or mobile device and also offer the audience the flexibility to fast-forward or rewind segments and to adjust overall episode speed and volume in order to accommodate diverse listening preferences. The solid editing and production of the podcast also contributes to the accessibility of the content via clear audio quality; moreover, the incorporation of a distinct introduction and conclusion provide listeners with a contextual framework for each episode. Episode transcripts are also easily accessible on the hosting website to accommodate the unique learning needs and preferences of the diverse target audience.

In addition to these accessibility and production features, the hosting website also provides an array of supportive materials, including a brief episode description, a link to the featured SoTL literature, and access to related resources that provide listeners with the opportunity to explore concepts connected to each episode. These supportive materials include links to additional SoTL publications, related 60-Second SoTL episodes, posts on the CEL blog, and/or related episodes of the "Limed" and "Making College Worth It" podcasts which are also produced by the CEL at Elon University (Center for Engaged Learning n.d.; Moore 2022–present; Moore 2023–present; Toprani and Wittstein 2022–present). Likewise, the podcast platforms (i.e. Spotify) also have show notes for each episode that include an episode description, link to the featured SoTL publication, and link to the extended show notes on the hosting website where listeners can explore the range of aforementioned supportive materials. The hosting website also offers listeners the opportunity to actively engage with the podcast community by providing links to share episodes via social media platforms and a contact link to suggest SoTL work that they would like to see featured in future episodes.

The compact format of the podcast, coupled with its broad scope of featured SoTL topics, lends itself to several practical ways that this resource may be used within the SoTL community. For example, individual reflection or small group discussions on podcast episodes may provide scholars with a foundation to explore and identify new SoTL questions that emerge from the featured literature. These new questions may, therefore, serve as a starting point for future studies and further

advancement of the SoTL field. Listeners may also use the information that they learn from podcast episodes to revise relevant aspects of their own teaching and learning practice. Alternatively, the podcast may also be featured as a workshop session/series at conferences, departmental meetings, or teaching and learning centers to provide a framework for designing new SoTL initiatives, to support the professional development of educators new to SoTL, and/or to ignite awareness of the value and impact of SoTL to the academic community at large.

Altogether, 60-Second SoTL is an engaging, easy to navigate, and high-quality podcast. It provides listeners with quick and manageable insight into novel scholarship in the teaching and learning space. The podcast's snapshot format coupled with its accessible platform and supportive resources are, in itself, an invaluable asset to promote the awareness, impact, and advancement of SoTL on an international scale.

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