Opening Educational Practices in Scotland (OEPS) is a Scottish Funding Council three-year project which promotes and facilitates best practice in open education in Scotland. Visit the OEPS blog for regular updates on the progress of the project.

Scottish Charity Awards

We are happy to announce that our open course ‘Understanding Parkinson’s for health and social care staff’, created in partnership with Parkinson’s UK Excellence Network, has been shortlisted for the 2017 Scottish Charity Awards in the Demonstrating Digital category. The winners are announced on 22 June.

The nomination also means that the course is in the running for the Scottish Charity People’s Choice Award, which is voted on by members of the public.

Katherine Crawford, Scotland Director at Parkinson’s UK, said “Parkinson’s UK is thrilled that the judges have recognised our trailblazing Understanding Parkinson’s course. Developed in Scotland, the programme harnesses the power of digital learning to help health and social care professionals provide even better services for people with Parkinson’s in Scotland and throughout the UK.

Pete Cannell, OEPS Co-Director, added that “This course and the way it has been developed by Parkinson’s UK is ground-breaking and we’re delighted that has been recognised. Combining their expertise on Parkinson’s with our knowledge of open education and accessible learning to create Understanding Parkinson’s increases understanding of the condition and helps people to access relevant and useful information, tips and ideas where and when they want. That others can adopt and adapt the course for free helps it reach an even wider audience and do more good.”

Vote

You can vote for ‘Understanding Parkinson’s for health and social care staff’ by visiting the GoodHQ website. Voting closes at 5pm on 26 May.

For more information about the competition visit the Scottish Charity Awards website.

This information was originally published as a press release by Parkinson’s UK on the 12 May 2017.

ELESIG – University of Abertay

OEPS was at the University of Abertay in Dundee on 25th April for the ELESIG Scotland meeting. ELESIG is the Evaluation of Learners’ Experiences of e-learning Special Interest Group and the event focused on the theme of ‘Learning in the Open’. During the day, discussion ranged from the design of physical learning spaces to open educational practice. The OEPS contribution considered the latter and shared ideas about the opportunities that developing open educational practice offer for the higher education sector. We discussed how open practice can lead to new models of curriculum development and also how openly licensed online courses can reach large numbers of learner but also offer opportunities for customisation to suit specific circumstances. You can view the presentation on slideshare.
### The Porous University

At the start of the second week of May, OEPS partnered with the University of the Highlands and Islands to present a two-day symposium entitled ‘The Porous University - A critical exploration of openness, space and place in Higher Education’. The majority of attendees were from the Scottish university sector but there were also delegates from colleges, the informal learning sector, from England and from overseas. The symposium had its origins in conversations and reflections on the nature of openness in higher education. Openness is often seen as a technical question where the solution lies in the appropriate application of educational technology. The focus of the OEPS project in contrast has been on educational practice and the use of technology. This emphasis was reflected in the discussions at the event, which were organised around a number of key questions posed by participants. There are plans to share the outputs of these discussions and we will be blogging them on www.oepscotland.org as they appear.

### Scottish Higher Education Developers

OEPS were invited to present at the Scottish Higher Education Developers (SHED) meeting on 11th May at the University of Stirling. Whilst we updated on OEPS items covered elsewhere in this newsletter, other SHED members outlined their activities to support digital education. One of the recurring themes was around copyright and the use of Creative Commons licensing. The University of Stirling are teaching students about this issue so that they can complete Digi-Essays, whilst the University of Dundee have just launched a new open educational resource dealing with Creative Commons, licensing and sharing open content. We, of course, highlighted our own ‘Becoming an open educator’ open educational resource which deals with these issues as well as explaining more about open educational resources and open educational practices in general. Another point of interest was the increasing focus on the use of digital badges and badged open courses. (Interestingly a few days after SHED we received an invitation to an event on the use of open badges in higher education.) This is something which OEPS has an ongoing interest, not least because all of our own courses have digital badges.

### Coming this Summer

Keep your eyes peeled for the following courses out soon:

- **‘Supporting dyslexia and inclusive practice’** – this is the second of three linked modules produced in partnership with Dyslexia Scotland/Education Scotland. This module aims to provide teachers and local authority staff with a deeper understanding of dyslexia and inclusive practice within the context of Scottish Education. You can pre-register for ‘Supporting dyslexia and inclusive practice’. You can also pre-register for the third module ‘Dyslexia identification and support’ (forthcoming early 2018).

- **‘Supporting collective learning in the workplace and community settings’** – this course aims to provide support for anyone who is involved in organising informal learning in workplace or community settings.

- **‘Global trends in death and dying’ (in partnership with the University of Glasgow)** – this course invites participants to consider issues such as What is death like around the world? How do we know what the causes and circumstances of death are globally? What trends exist in relation to death and dying?

### Contact us

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