

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.

Understanding Dyslexia and Inclusive Practice



We were delighted to launch our latest open online course '[Introduction to Dyslexia and Inclusive Practice](#)' during Open Education Week. This course was produced in collaboration with the Dyslexia Toolkit Working Group, led by Frances Ranaldi of Education Scotland, and Dyslexia Scotland. It is the first of three linked courses supporting the [Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit](#). It is aimed at teachers, community educators and anyone with an interest in inclusive practice and supports the recommendations of the 2014 Education Scotland Review 'Making Sense: Education for Children and Young People with Dyslexia in Scotland'. It also links to the General Teaching Council of Scotland's professional standards. In the first

week of the course there were over 200 registrations. We hope that this course will substantially increase the opportunities for educators to develop their inclusive practice in education and therefore increase the support available to learners with dyslexia. As with all our courses if you use, reuse, remix, revise or redistribute it then please let us know as we'd love to know how it's being used.

OEPS at OE Global and OER17 Conferences

The OEPS project was represented at two international open education conferences in March and April 2017.

[Open Education Global Conference](#) (OE Global) took place in Cape Town, the first time in a 'global south' country. OEPS had a poster and a presentation at this conference, with Anna Page representing OEPS, while Beck Pitt and Bea De Los Arcos presented their OER hub work. The OEPS poster featured quotes from each OEPS case study, showing how they are thematically interlinked. The PDF can be downloaded at [OEPS Poster for OE Global 2017](#)). The presentation, called 'Opening Practice on participatory course production', shared the experiences of partnership collaboration and models of OER production which OEPS has been practising and could be adopted by others. You can download the abstract and extended narrative at [Opening practice on participatory course production extended narrative](#) and the slides can be accessed [via our blog](#).



Anna with poster at OE Global ([CC BY 4.0](#), Beck Pitt)

A month later OEPS had several presentations at [OER17 conference](#) in London (The [slides for these can be found on slideshare](#)). The theme was "The Politics of Open". The presentations by OEPS and OUIS were:

- [Mind the Gap: Structural Holes, Open Educational Practices and the Third Sector](#) (Ronald Macintyre)
- [From OER to OEP – enabling open educational practices via platform development and open course building exemplars](#) (Anna Page)
- [Exploring international educational practices](#) (Beck Pitt and Bea De Los Arcos)
- [Open Learning Champions – a model for widening participation](#) (Gill Ryan, The Open University in Scotland)



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It was useful for OEPS to exchange our approach to open education with audiences from many other open projects and to learn about some of those projects too.

You can read [Anna's reflections on attending both OE Global and OER17 on our blog](#).

Universities for Lifelong Learning Conference – York



The OEPS project was represented at [The Universities Association for Lifelong Learning \(UALL\)](#) annual conference, held in York on the 6th and 7th of April. UALL brings together practitioners and researchers engaged with widening participation and lifelong learning. This year's conference considered the local, regional and international dimensions of lifelong learning. In the OEPS presentation we focused on the work that the project has carried out in the co-production of free online courses with partners from the third sector and with organisations interested in professional development. We looked at the motivations of these partner organisations and the value that openly licensed courses have for them. In developing courses in partnership OEPS has made use of approaches from participatory design and it was interesting to share ideas at the conference with practitioners from Scandinavia, where some of these approaches were first used. The UALL 2017 awards winner was announced at the conference and went to the Brighton based community project '[The Bevy](#)'. We were pleased that the OEPS project was runner up and highly commended. This is recognition for all those individuals and organisations that have participated in the multiple strands of the OEPS project and shared practice, ideas and creativity.

Learning for Sustainability Scotland workshop

At the beginning of March, Ronald Macintyre (OEPS) and Betsy King ([LfSS](#)) delivered a stimulating workshop at the University of Edinburgh ([workshop slides on LfS and Open Education Practice are available on the Learning for Sustainability Scotland website](#)). It was attended by Learning for Sustainability Scotland members and focused on the role of openness for sustainability. Throughout the day there was plenty of lively discussion as participants debated the enabling opportunities of openness and how openness could support the values of sustainability.

Three key themes emerged:

- using openness in teacher education
- the transformative potential of open educational resources
- the issues around the reuse of open content



LfSS workshop ([CC BY 4.0](#), OEPS)

At the end of the workshop the participants discussed setting up a task group and organising some future meetings (If you are interested you can contact [Abi Cornwall](#), Development Officer at LfSS). Ronald has since written a [reflective blog about what the OER/OEP movement can learn from the current work on sustainability](#).

Upcoming event:

The Porous University

On Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th May, the University of Highlands and Islands with OEPS is holding a symposium. '[The Porous University](#)' will critically explore openness, space and place in Higher Education. Discussion will focus on a number of 'provocations' during break-out sessions, and participants have the opportunity to submit provocations of their own. The OEPS team, including Pete Cannell, Ronald Macintyre, Rosemarie Mcilwhan and Beck Pitt, will be contributing to the discussion. Registration has now closed, but you can still participate online via webinar (details to be confirmed). For more information email Alex Walker (Ita@uhi.ac.uk).

Porous University webpage, Tim Smith, [UHI](#), [CC-BY 2.0](#)

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