

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Community as an extended classroom: Evoking Curiosity and Collaboration.

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The teaching method, entitled ‘Community as Extended Classroom [CeC]’ is the presentation’s theme. CeC is a trans-disciplinary pedagogical method in teaching subjects of cities, health, populations and society. The objective of CeC is to enable students to engage in community settings to understand and work with complexity, applying theoretical approaches to showcase collaborations that bridge knowledge and societies. Academics and researchers extol the benefits of virtual teaching and advantages of community engagement to apply theories for trans-disciplinary approaches to teaching and learning. The presentation affirms the value of health professionals, community and urban designers and architects collaborating to enhance students learning experiences in real-life situations for praxis to occur, where theory is translated into action to enable changes in communities and society. CeC bridges communities and students at the crossroad of experience and learning theories. Students’ evaluations confirm the impact of experiential understanding, learning and knowing within a social and cultural context. Adopting a trans-disciplinary approach of CeC is crossing various disciplines at Robert Gordon University.

1. Kydd, G. S. (2004). Seeing the world in 3D: learning in the community (Unpublished doctoral thesis). University of Calgary, Calgary, AB.

2. Eisner, Elliot W. (1998) The kind of schools we need : personal essays, Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

3. Smith, M. K. (2005). ‘Elliot W. Eisner, connoisseurship, criticism and the art of education’, The encyclopedia of pedagogy and informal education. [<https://infed.org/mobi/elliott-w-eisner-connoisseurship-criticism-and-the-art-of-education/>. Retrieved: 25 March 2022].