

ASCILITE CMP: Helping third space professionals with mental well-being

The ASCILITE Community Mentoring Program seeks to bring participants in a professional mentoring relationships.

Who are we?

Dr Puva P Arumugam

Lecturer, Course Renewal
Deakin University

A third space academic from the central body of Deakin Learning Futures working on re-imagining courses to fit the unique needs of digital learning at Deakin. Puva has more than 6 years of work experience as Learning Designer in the Higher Education space. This is her third time being a mentor with ASCILITE CMP.



Amanda Bellaby

Learning Designer
Queensland University of
Technology

A third space professional from the Learning and Teaching Unit at the Queensland University of Technology. Amanda primarily works with Creative Industries, Education, and Social Justice in designing transformative curriculum using evidence-based approaches and emerging technologies. This is her second time being a mentee with ASCILITE CMP.

What did we discuss?

Assessment

What does assessment mean during and post-COVID? What were some of the measures taken by each of our HE institutions as we moved assessments online as a result of COVID lockdown?



Microcredentials

What are these? How can they be useful to us as HE educators and staff? What are some of the discussions and events happening around this space?



Working post-COVID

Benefits and challenges of working from home and returning to work, especially in Melbourne. How does this impact on the work we do when we support academics? What could be the new norm and how will that shape the landscape of HE education providers/HE students?



Testimonies

Thanks to the expertise and guidance of my mentor, I have increased my confidence, engaged in various pedagogical discussions, and learned new ways of doing things. By participating in the CMP, I have joined an extended family that also includes other mentors and mentees in the CMP. I have also felt supported and cared for, creating a healthy sense of mental well-being.

Amanda

It's been a great experience to be a mentor third time around at CMP and be paired with a like-minded mentee to discuss more than just work related topics regularly. I always look forward to our CMP catch ups as it gave us both the much needed avenue to deal with not only work related issues but also with things that happened around us socially owing to COVID restrictions and changes this year.

Puva

How did our well-being improve?

More than just a network

The mentoring relationship has provided us with opportunities to connect with another person from a diverse background and career stage, a sense of belonging, share and learn in a safe and welcoming environment, appreciate differences and seek perspectives different to our own, gain knowledge of different ways of working, and improve our own working practices.

References

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- Whitchurch, C. (2008). Shifting identities and blurring boundaries: The emergence of Third Space professionals in UK higher education. *Higher Education Quarterly* 62(4), 377-396.