ASCILITE 2025

Future-Focused:

Educating in an Era of Continuous Change

Leading beyond roles: Relational leadership for collaborative futures

Kelly Matthews

The University of Queensland

What if leadership in higher education wasn't about position or power—but about purpose, connection, and collective impact?

This workshop invites you to think differently about leadership. It offers space to reflect, write, and reimagine your leadership practice in a way that is relational, values-led, and grounded in community. Together, we will challenge dominant ideas—such as the lone hero, top-down command, or leadership as control—and instead explore approaches that centre listening, inclusion, and alignment across roles, disciplines, and initiatives.

Designed for educators, researchers, professional staff, and academic leaders at all levels, the workshop creates a collegial and constructive space for deep thinking and real conversation. Participants will engage with structured frameworks to identify their leadership contexts, surface the challenges and opportunities they face, and explore what it means to bring people along to do hard things—together.

Through guided writing, narrative development, and critically constructive peer coaching, this is a space for people who want to lead with clarity, kindness, and commitment to shared purpose.

Participants will:

- 1. Engage with a relational, values-led model of leadership for higher education
- 2. Reflect on their leadership context, challenges, and communities
- 3. Develop and refine a personal leadership narrative
- 4. Practice peer coaching to explore how leadership can align values, strategy, and action

Matthews, K. (2025, Nov 30 – Dec 3). Leading beyond roles: Relational leadership for collaborative futures. [Workshop Presentation]. Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education Conference, Adelaide, Australia. https://doi.org/10.65106/apubs.2025.2782

Note: All published papers are refereed, having undergone a double-blind peer-review process. The author(s) assign a Creative Commons by attribution licence enabling others to distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon their work, even commercially, as long as credit is given to the author(s) for the original creation.

© Matthews, K. 2025