

## Poster presentation

# Developing online postgraduate coursework to promote change in animal industries

**Hannah Forsyth, Chris Moran, Jaime Gongora**  
University of Sydney

**Ruth Laxton**  
R. L. Learning Designs, Sydney

**Julius van der Werf**  
University of New England

Educational theories are increasingly demonstrating the significance of a participative approach to educational design, development and teaching. This participative approach promotes the design of learning programs that consider learning on a larger scale than the individual – extending to transforming organisations, professions, industries.

This poster reports on an action research project attached to a new postgraduate coursework program in Animal Breeding Management. This online program is led by the need for animal industries to change practices in light of new knowledge and technologies in animal genetics and breeding.

Relevance to industry is not the only contributing factor in the project - university and government imperatives for efficiencies through collaboration mean that the project is being conducted collaboratively by the University of Sydney and the University of New England and is being managed and developed by a team consisting of academic specialists, an educational designer and a manager.

The poster shows how the various stakeholders are committed to a two-way learning process during the program development and outlines the collaborative effort between the two universities. Outcomes to date suggest that, to meet stakeholders' shared goal of change across animal industries, alignment of industry needs, academic validity, management and educational design is necessary.

Keywords: learning communities, collaborative learning, organisational change, educational paradigms, teaching and learning strategies

## Author contact details

**Hannah Forsyth**, Faculty of Veterinary Science, B10 – Evelyn Williams, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. Email: [h.forsyth@usyd.edu.au](mailto:h.forsyth@usyd.edu.au).

**Ruth Laxton**, R.L. Learning Designs, 6 Prospect Place Como, NSW 2226, Australia. Email: [rlaxton@rllld.com.au](mailto:rlaxton@rllld.com.au).

**Chris Moran**, B19 - R.M.C. Gunn, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. Email: [chrism@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:chrism@vetsci.usyd.edu.au).

**Julius van der Werf**, Animal Science, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351, Australia. Email: [julius.vanderwerf@une.edu.au](mailto:julius.vanderwerf@une.edu.au).

**Jaime Gongora**, B19 - R.M.C. Gunn, The University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia. Email: [jaimeg@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:jaimeg@vetsci.usyd.edu.au).

Please cite as: Forsyth, H., Laxton, R., Moran, C., van der Werf, J. & Gongora, J. (2006). Developing online postgraduate coursework to promote change in animal industries. In LMarkauskaite, P. Goodyear, & P. Reimann (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 23rd Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education: Who's Learning? Whose Technology?* (pp. 970-971). Sydney: Sydney University Press. <https://doi.org/10.65106/apubs.2006.2996>

The author(s) assign to ascilite and educational non-profit institutions a non-exclusive licence to use this document for personal use and in courses of instruction provided that the article is used in full and this copyright statement is reproduced. The author(s) also grant a non-exclusive licence to ascilite to publish this document on the ascilite web site (including any mirror or archival sites that may be developed) and in electronic and printed form within the ascilite *Conference Proceedings*. Any other usage is prohibited without the express permission of the author(s). For the appropriate way of citing this article, please see the frontmatter of the *Conference Proceedings*.