

## Treasure Island Pedagogies Episode 36

### Podcast Transcript

**[This transcript is automatically generated – to report any issues or request a verbatim copy, please email [cie@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:cie@liverpool.ac.uk)]**

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Hi, this is Tünde Varga-Atkins and this is episode 36 of our Treasure Island Pedagogies podcast from the Centre of Innovation in Education at the University of Liverpool, where we share our light bulb moments, teaching props and pedagogies as we call habit. Our Treasure Island, the space for contacting with students. Our guests today are Madina Tash and Benjamin Redman. And can I ask each of you briefly to introduce yourself, your original degree subject and your? Current role please.

Dr Madina Tash

Hi, my name is Madina. My original discipline is actually finance and I currently specialize in finance. My undergraduate studies weren't final. My first postgrad was in finance, my second post grad was international management, and then PhD was in corporate finance as well, and my current role is lecturing finance and director of Bloomberg Financial Market. Lab, prior to that, I served as Head of Accounting and Finance Placement program at University of Sussex Student School.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Really, I'm very pleased to have you on on board, Mattia and more about Ben.

Dr Madina Tash

Thank you.

Ben Redman

So hi, I'm Ben. I originally trained as a percussionist. And I worked as a musician, touring internationally, playing in venues such as the Royal Opera House in Reykjavik, Iceland, down to the Skydome Stadium in Toronto. In a variety of genres, from classical music with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to recording as a session musician with hip hop artists, then with a

young family, I decided to do something a little bit more family friendly and I moved into teaching in schools. And. Then after 25 years, I decided it was time for a change. So I then moved and and this is all concurrent with finishing my PhD at the Royal Conservatory of Scotland. So I then moved into higher education. I'd previously done a little bit of work at Edinburgh Napier University as an academic skills advisor. But the Royal Conservatory of Scotland I took up a post as research development officer and an academic developer, and more recently I've. Been lecturing on the Ahmed learning and teaching in the arts program, and so I did a degree in education studies. And a postgraduate diploma in music teaching and my doctoral research was in online music teaching. And I did that through the Royal Conservatory, Art and University of Saint Andrews. So that's a little bit. Not me.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Mm-hmm. As in the online teaching, was that before COVID? After COVID, how did they coincide?

Ben Redman

Ah, well, it's interesting. You should ask that. So I began in, began my PhD in 2014, and at that time there was a lot of skepticism around about it. And a lot of my colleagues were saying, well, it can't work. It doesn't work and we don't want it to work. And anecdotally, I heard from a music teacher working in a higher education institution who. When they were on tour, they would connect with their students back in at that time, it was probably Skype and. But. Yeah, they could connect and and continue their regular weekly lessons with their students. Seems like a great idea, except that their colleagues got wind of this and had a word with the head of department and that particular teacher was asked to kindly not deliver their teaching via that method. I encountered a lot of resistance. And in the local authority I was working at the time they I suggested, wouldn't it be an idea if I could maybe upload PDF's of the music, providing obviously subject to copyright thing written myself, because a frequent problem for?

Speaker

Hmm.

Ben Redman

Music teachers that I'm talking instrumental music teachers here is that. Give the sheet music out to the pupil and then they'll come back the following

week saying oh so I lost my music. Can I have another call? Yeah. If it's all online then that losing musics, a thing of the past. And I thought also yeah, I could upload backing tracks for them. So they because again, I would say. Can you bring in a blank CD or a USB stick and I'll put the backing tracks on there for you? That could sometimes take weeks and weeks, and sometimes it never happened. But again, you know the the music would all be online for them to access. And I could do short video recordings of myself demonstrating things I thought these were very sensible ideas, but it was absolutely I wasn't allowed to, and I asked why and. That our potential reputational damage to the local authority and I just went away shaking my head thinking. You know, you're you're gonna you will change your mind because this is the way forward. Cause I've used a lot of these online methods in my own learning and I was obviously starting to research this a little bit more intensively. So yeah, that was all pre pandemic and then you know the great irony is of course over the course of the weekend. In March 2020. We, having been told no, you can't do you can't teach online. It was just announced, like everybody's teaching online. Get on with it and of course, know me in our local authority, had much of an idea how to do this. So yeah, it was a little bit of a case of, well, I told you so. But anyway, I didn't predict the pandemic, of course. But I knew that this was the direction of travel. And now, of course, it's just seen as well. Of course, that's what we do.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah, yeah.

Ben Redman

Which took quite obvious but anyway.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah. Thank you. Yeah. Thank you, Ben. And yes, so let's let's start going towards our treasure islands now and one of the things we asked you on this podcast is talk a little bit about your light bulb moments and what what has made that happen.

Dr Madina Tash

Better interesting question about the liberal moment. I've really had to reflect on my teaching and what that that face my teaching, and I realized that there was one particular incident that actually affected that the direction of my teaching philosophy and my approach to pedagogy. And that was when I

accidentally met a former workmate of mine at Brighton Pier, where she was working as a sales assistant. A year after she had finished her postgraduate degree, her Masters in International Management. And she told me how she was struggling to find a job. And in the corporate world, while she was struggling to secure a graduate or built just by the fact that she was multilingual at two degree at prior work experience and she wasn't very talented individual and yet she was struck. To get a job. And it it really, really affected me. I I I remember at that point I was already enrolled to do my PhD. So I started teaching as an associate tutor. Three months later, down the line, after after bed meeting with her and. It really had a profound impact on my teaching approach. I realized that employability has to be front and center of and teaching practice. We have to embed employability into our teaching because we can't rely on career services to explain to students. Industry specific skills that are required and certain knowledge that is needed in order for students to actually secure. Jobs didn't succeed to flourish. To make use of. What it is? That they studied and it it really, really. Impacted me at the time and it still does even now because whenever I have to question whether it's worthwhile to put in the extra work because inevitably does require it to work. I think of that former classmate group mate of mine and I realized, yeah, it's definitely worth it. Definitely there is actually a huge, huge. Which? Benefit to this that there is definitely a positive aspect that will come come out from this and I see it every day when I receive emails from current or former students of mine. Say oh, oh, by the way, I'm just secured the placement or oh by the way, I've just secured a graduate role. Or thank you cards from their parent. Because at times it has a huge impact, not just on the student but also on their entire family.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

So it sounds like because as you said, as you expressed, it was such a profound impact on you that that one and that one student story, but you clearly. You clearly had seen this big gap between their capability and what they were capable of and and where how it under utilized. It was in that situation. So can you talk a little bit about that Medina then in terms of how so when you say it impacted on your practice, what sort of things you're doing now and and and clearly it's working if you're getting all those. Thank you cards and feedback from the students after graduation.

Dr Madina Tash

I realized that at the time when I started teaching an associate tutor during my. First year of my PhD, even though I already had had some experience of working in the industry in large corporate organizations, I realized that the

progress in this in the industry developing really fast, largely fueled by rapid changes in the technology so. There is an inevitable, inevitable need to maintain contact with industry practitioners in order to learn from them so that I then can pass on that knowledge back to my student. Because there is a gap between the practitioners and academics, we we are not in the actual practical field to to catch all the later development in order to bridge that gap, I had to actually actively engage with the industry. So that involved attending barns, industry conferences, maintaining a network. In the industry and growing that network and specifically with the HR recruitment department or graduate recruitment teams of investment banks. Counting funds. The companies that students would be interested to apply to the they were best equipped to pass on the knowledge back to study. And that also actually involves dealing directly or engaging and learning directly from industry practitioners operating in natural active client facing role. So if it's NA that the second year analyst or senior managers. Was extremely useful because I could pick out those specific skills. That they needed in order to get the job in a particular segment of finance and in order to actually flourish and perform well in that particular role and different segments of finance actually require different skills. Though being able to actually dissect and understand the markets so much and enabled me to improve my my teaching and embed employability in every seminar, in every lecture and in every piece of assessment. And through these discussions with industry practitioners such as investment bankers and financial analysts about one common feature that kept reappearing again and again. And it was Bloomberg Terminal. So I I realized that there is a need to have that resource. On on campus, so that then prompted a A2 year project for me to actually secure the funding to open. At the Bloomberg Lab at the University of Sussex.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

So for those of you, those of us who know in finance, can you just describe a little bit what what this Bloomberg Terminal works in terms of your discipline and why why it's that important in terms of the skills?

Dr Madina Tash

So Bloomberg Terminal is initially started off as a trading instrument, via which investment banks, hedge funds and other financial institutions around the world would trade. And it's it's continued to be its primary function. However, it's also used by various companies and various organizations, even outside of you know, the the field of business. There are religious organizations. Such as the Vatican? Vatican church. They have a set of court terminal, philanthropic foundations, charities because it.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Wow.

Dr Madina Tash

A very versatile tool. It has unique.

Speaker

And.

Dr Madina Tash

Information that is required for various activities, be it supply chain, marketing and so on, it's it's the repository of all sorts of up-to-date, very unique exclamation. So it's not just that the type of skill that would be useful for a trader anyone. Who is interested, for example, in data analytics or management consultancy supply chain, they would benefit from using Bloomberg Terminal and I noticed that employers even outside of you know, financial institutions they. Favorite seeing that on the student ID that is student has, for example, Bloomberg Market conflict certification or that they they they have good understanding of how to use Bloomberg Terminal signal with the employer that the students have some practical skills, practical skills that will be very useful. And especially useful in the field of. Yeah.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Brilliant. Yeah. Brilliant. Thanks, Medina. So is that Ben. Is that in music? Music education is employability. How how does that resonates with you in your area?

Ben Redman

Our crikey employability. There's a big one. It's. Yeah. It's very, very difficult. I mean, obviously the pandemic had a major, major impact on everybody across the, the, the globe, the entertainment sector particularly so. I think for me, what's really interesting and maybe this would be a good segue into possibly my light bulb moment and then we'll, I'll try and bring it back to to this about, you know, the brave new world of of how we are all going to do things in the future. So just to back up a little bit, yeah, I started my doctoral research back in 2014 having been very interested in the possibilities of online. Learning and having accessed massively open online courses and really found the benefit of that, but also. Having used video conferencing to

access instrumental teachers, for example. As a percussionist, I mean there. Are. Literally hundreds of different instruments. One could specialize in as an orchestral percussionist. I was expected to be able to play timpani. Side drum glockenspiel whole range of different. Instruments in the orchestra and then as a as a drum kit player to be versatile in a whole range of different styles. And then there's all the Latin percussion instruments and getting to other instruments, tabla and so on. And it the list just goes on. So I mean it would be. An impossible thing to master all percussion instruments. So anyway, I was using Skype at the time to. Get lessons with. Top jazz musicians in America and now it sounds like a simple thing, but I mean, that was quite revolutionary for me not having to travel somewhere to go and and and and meet her a teacher for lessons. And in addition to not having to travel there was the added benefit that I could be warmed up in my own home. As in, you know, I've been practicing. I was ready to play. Ready, you know, sort of warmed up mentally as well as physically for the lesson. I could record elements of it at home. We could share PDFs really easy. The and then as soon as the lesson finished, I could just continue practicing and really consolidate the learning there. And so, you know, there's savings in terms of travel time, travel costs and then, you know, really real big thing is the environmental impact and that's you know, that's really, really important. But there were problems, of course, with these early video conferencing platforms, frequent Internet dropouts, poor audio and video quality. And the big limitation as far as music learning is concerned is not being able to play together in real time because of the inherent delay in in the network and in the computer systems so. My light bulb moment really came in 2015, when by chance I stumbled across Lola, which is short for low latency audio visual streaming. Which allows musicians to play together in real time. As though they're in the same room at distances of up to 1000 kilometres. Now that's a really significant development in technology because suddenly. Don't have to travel through a rehearsal.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

You don't have to carry your drum kits.

Ben Redman

Exactly. Yeah, you can already be set up at home, and then I just think back to the early 90s and. Shortly before going on tour to yeah to Toronto, we had a singer travel all the way from Toronto to come and rehearse with us for about an hour all the way back to Toronto, which you know it wasn't a waste of time. But you know, even back then. Thinking it must be an easier way of doing this anyway, Fast forward and. Yeah. Lola has massive implications to

be a real, tangible example. And I was presenting at a conference at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and as part of that conference, there was a very large Lola set up and we had musicians and dancers in the studio in Copenhagen. Dancers being beamed in remotely from. A location in Spain and also musicians being beamed in from the Royal College of Music in London. And it was just this most delightful coming together and it was a very technically complex.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Sounds like Star Trek from being people being beamed in.

Dr Madina Tash

Well.

Ben Redman

Yeah. And people have likened it to that the hollow decks. But I mean, it really felt like that and.

Dr Madina Tash

Yeah.

Ben Redman

So that was really, really important and what it means is that, yeah, things which weren't previously possible become possible. Like for example, having more than one, say, cathedral organ. Playing together because so you can do that. And I mean that's because you know it would be it would take you know quite a lot of time and engineering to to physically pick up one cathedral.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah.

Ben Redman

And you might. Then why would you want to? But anyway, there. There you go. That that's a different question, but it just makes a whole lot of things possible in in the field of education and and just in, in art form so.

Tünde Varga-Atkins



Probably impossible really, but yeah.

Ben Redman

In terms of employability, to bring it back to your original question. I think we all have to embrace as as teachers and and artists. Have to embrace, you know, the the new world that we're in and we all know that of course, climate change is a thing and we have to be environmentally responsible and we have to think about how we our art forms can continue in a way that is environmentally sustainable. Respond. Possible. And I think you know allows. Just something that occurred to me is that the sort of response as I used to get to, well, why would you want to do things by video conferencing? Because it's not the same as being in the room as someone and it's like, well, yeah, it's not the same, but you know that thing that you put on in your living room at night called a television, you know, that people aren't. Actually, in the same room as you, but you consume the content quite happily and you don't question that well you. That's the thing. And and when I put it to people like that, they go. Oh, yeah. I hadn't really thought of it like that. And it's just the way things are now. So it's I think it's it's in, in terms of education it I think it really opens up a whole lot more possibilities for remote access to. As I was using to teachers from from different locations could be within the UK, could be Europe wide engaging real time practice sessions, rehearsals and performances which weren't previously possible. I mean, in the UK alone, there's approximately 70 institutions have music departments, so. And the way that music the pants tend to recruit people, it's not necessarily done on on the most talented or the most capable, it's like, well, maybe they actually they're a bit short on say violins for their orchestra that so that that is they need to recruit more violinists or there's only. Space to say 1 bassoonist but sudden. The. Using Lola, you know the potential is there to to connect people across institutions so that we could really think of this a bit more nationally and internationally as well. It's no longer going to be well, it depends on who's physically there in that particular location. It just offers all these, these so many more possibilities. I mean to give another example, many years ago I went off to New York to perform with the festival Marimba Orchestra. Now marimba is like a giant xylophone. You might be familiar with. Dame Evelyn Glennie. He's a master practitioner of the marimba, and so there were, yeah, there were 150 of us. No, actually 170 of us on 150 marimbas. I mean, and that was a major logistical thing to to physically get all those marimbas there. And you know that suddenly becomes a lot more possible using these low latency technologies. So you know we can reach a global audience. We can teach students regardless of their location. The big thing with logos is it does allow, as I've already said, people to play together in real time because it's just to try

and explain it a little bit more. There's if we are, say, standing 10 feet apart, there's going to be 10 milliseconds from the sound coming from me to reach you, and then if I'm listening for your response to that, there's another 10 milliseconds and we tend to play.

Speaker

Yeah.

Ben Redman

It's not always the case, but most music is done synchronously. There are exceptions. We could talk about that a lot, but most news tends to be done synchronously, so we're always listening for timing and tuning in and all these different things. And at the point where the distance becomes more and more stretched, it then becomes. Ohh, I'm hearing you slightly late, so I'll just slightly delay. And then the second person hears that slightly delayed and we get this kind of recursive effect. Where this the thing falls apart. So there comes a point where it doesn't work anymore. But yeah, it's just. Up to say about 1000 kilometres or so it becomes, you know, eminently possible to do things which weren't previously possible. So, you know, there's just so many possibilities there. And I think that's really where we're at in terms of the employability and is that.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

MHM.

Ben Redman

Yeah, people just have to embrace these new technologies because that's the world that we're now living in and things are gonna be different. And yeah, we have.

Speaker

Hmm.

Ben Redman

Think thinking about the environment as well so.

Speaker

Yeah, I mean.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah, I think those are really, really valid points and things that we are. Yeah, we we we have to face some of those decisions as well. And I think maybe the other connection point what Medina was talking about that and you mentioned that you then get access to expertise and specialisms that you wouldn't have perhaps had in other situations. So you could have your. You're expert in marimba teaching your students in Edinburgh or Glasgow because they may not be in in place, but we could invite them in. And that sounds like an amazing opportunity for the students as well.

Ben Redman

Yeah, absolutely. And yeah, I mean, thinking about the Erasmus program with student exchanges. I mean, we know there's a whole load of benefits for going and studying in a different country. I love to travel. I mean, that's one of the things that attracted me to being a musician is the possibility to go and and travel to different countries and experience different cultures and in fact. Yeah, back in. Ohh some years ago now I I specifically travelled to New Jersey in the states for. It was almost for four weeks for a marimba seminar, and it was just wonderful teaching and learning that that occurred there. I absolutely. I had a great time and still in touch with some of the people I met there, and I interviewed one of my friends I met. In Ocean Grove for UM. My PhD and he recounted how he would he'd been learning tabla, the Indian drums, and he was initially learning with the teacher in person. He then. Continued lessons when they moved away using video conferencing. Of course, it wasn't quite the same and he ultimately travelled to India to go and have. Private lessons daily with a with a with a guru and you know, he said. You know, there were things that he just wouldn't have got even using, say, for example, Lola, because he could actually, you know, when while he was waiting for his lesson, he'd be listening to the student before him and just picking up things he said, you know, it's it's not just about the music. It's about the whole everything else that goes on around it, which is a really important thing, but. The thing is that used in the correct way it it these tools can help just to kind of smooth out the process a little bit before someone goes off to a different destination, not necessarily about replacing the the face to face interaction, although it can be and so it's just. Acknowledging that it's not meant to necessarily be a an either or, it's like, well, but you could use this as well as and you know as a as a started off with the teacher that when they were on tour they were connecting with their students remotely just to keep the contact. Going, I mean I I I use video conferencing for all sorts

of things. One of them is I'm learning Japanese at the moment and so I can get a lesson with a native speaker in Japan. So yeah, it's just got the so, so many implications.

Speaker

Yeah.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Great. OK. So let's, let's talk about teaching process. We we sailing to this island where we have got this really good experiences for our students in, in the ways that you've. Like what? What shall we put in our boards? Any teaching props or pedagogies you would like to bring that will make their experience even better than what we have talked about so far?

Ben Redman

But for me, I would. I would take some of the low latency technology for reasons I've already described so that I can. Yeah. Yeah. Rehearse and perform with other musicians. I'd I'd love to get to do that on my phone.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

OK, I might push you to think of another one, Ben as well, because we've got that on the island already, Medina in the meantime, have you got something for us?

Speaker

OK. Yeah.

Dr Madina Tash

I would advise fellow educators to perhaps look into incorporating. Micro credentials into into their modules into their courses. That's what I did. With one modules, financial institutions and markets, I incorporated Bloomberg financial markets. Bloomberg Bloomberg Market Concepts certification and a prerequisite for their midterm assessment. That they have to complete the certification. And they have to include certain details from specification onto their midterm assessment in order to pass the assessment. And I came back to the study during the first two years when I incorporated the the micro credential into the module, and I noted that it that it had a big impact on student employability. Those businesses and.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

So it fits in with what you said about skills and and then sort of doing that sort of assessment and and showing their competency, some additional things that will give them the edge over other students.

Dr Madina Tash

You know you can, upon the completion of that certification, students received. Ticket that they then would add to their LinkedIn page, so that helped them to get exposure to to network better and they would also add it to the CD. And again it helped them to develop their CD. It shows that they have practical financial skills and they would also highlight. And I see the fact that the micro credential is FA. Accredited. There was actually designed and written by CFA for Bloomberg, and CFA is a is a one of the key organizations in in financial services industry that. Financiers and bankers have to have this via pay qualification, so it it signals to potential employers that the student is aware of. Oven and bodies in the industry that the student has a keen interest in this field, and they have the right skills and tools in place that they have the potential and the curiosity to perform well and involved. So my fellow educators is to look into perhaps incorporating these Michael credentials. As a way of helping students to improve their CD's and to look at micro credentials that are perhaps designed by he governing bodies or professional associations in there. Affected subjects and their respective field and look into embedding this potentially in maybe their assessment or their seminars. There is a way as to how these sort of additional tools can be incorporated into a teaching and I shared my experience of incorporating.

Speaker

MHM.

Dr Madina Tash

You can see the certification into the module in in an article that what what becomes higher education and I received quite a lot of positive feedback that educators in other in other field and in other subjects have actually. Use this as a as an idea to take on this approach in their respective build and it actually yielded some really positive results.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Brilliant. OK, so we have got micro credentials and demonstrating some some really competitive skills as as one idea. Ben, have you got any other teaching props that we could take in to our boat with with us?

Ben Redman

It's not so much a prop, it's just something that I've found. Teaching at Masters level or teaching Masters level students is the. Such a key component of that level is demonstrating criticality. And I mean, I guess we're all critical and whether we realise we're being critical or not when we, you know, go to the shops and decide, am I gonna buy this product or this product? But so I it wasn't something I particularly came up with myself, but just something that I've found has been useful with students was to. Think about going through a a sort of set sequence of description, analysis and evaluation of a particular source and. Sure, all the listeners are familiar with the crap test. Currency relevance, accuracy, authority, et cetera, and just having that awareness of. Yeah, just thinking about things from a different perspective and that can be. Well, I've found that certainly very useful just to help the master students. Yeah, develop more criticality. So it's a it's not a real a wow thing as such. But yeah, that was that's been. Certainly useful in higher education. I mean, another thing is just and this is going to be my luxury. Item. It's either an iPad or an iPhone, but just being able to just because of the sheer potential there for certainly as a musician, as and as a music educator, being able to take sections of tracks and loop them around and slow them down, change key. And that's been really invaluable. For me as a musician, but also I've found that. It yielded really good results with students and I was just speaking to colleagues at the weekend and I was telling about one particular app that I use and they haven't heard of it. And so it just goes to show that, you know, we think that everybody knows about all these different things and not necessarily so. But anyway, there's certainly in terms of music. Technology. I would, yeah. And that is a segue into my luxury item.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah. Brilliant.

Ben Redman

And and and I say that the item, I think it's pretty much our phones are sort of almost like our right hand now we sort of like you know on my goodness where's my phone and if we if our phone crashed, yeah, it's sort of like Oh no, you know part of me is missing now because we are so reliant and.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

The body part really is.

Ben Redman

Dependent on them, but I can still remember. Yeah, just realizing the power of smartphones and sort of when I thought ohh it's changes. Everything I mean to a younger audience, that would just sound ridiculous. But I'm old enough to remember when we got in at my parents house, we got a home telephone and having to remember the home telephone number and and being taught. The correct etiquette for answering the telephone and. So yeah.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

There's etiquettes now for every social media platforms and yeah, all sorts brilliant. It's OK. So Medina, what would be your luxury item then if you've got, if we, I think we are allowing the smartphones because we have got solar paneled Wi-Fi on the island, so that's yeah. That's the way we we can make. That work or?

Dr Madina Tash

I I think my election luxury item is a trading simulation or gamification. So trading simulations are providing students with an opportunity to. Literally use a game for the concept. The initially my very first experience of using trading simulation was by actually. Acquiring for a specific cohort trading simulation that was already prepared by another Business School from United States and it worked really well. It allowed students to. Working groups. It allowed them to actually track their progress of how well they were doing in comparison to other groups, though it it enabled them to develop this team working skills that they at the time didn't know that they were capable of actually having, because initially they were quite suspicious of whether everybody would be equally involved. It's it's the. It's a regular issue with team working project. Sometimes those students who are not 100% involved, but in this case because it was a spun preparation for a seminar and it it was also quite transparent because you could see on the dashboard performance track record of every scene. They're all quite feeling quite competitive and everybody wanted to win. No, there was no pride. I realized that oh, there is a real potential to actually incorporate experiential learning.

Speaker

Thing.

Dr Madina Tash

Into this teaching process by incorporating or banning trading simulations or or in actual gamification, actual gains that are designed for these specific concepts or modules and and what prompted me prompted me to actually look into. Designing my own game focused on finance and the business and finance concept, and I applied for. UN prime funding that was subject to need funding competition for UK and Ireland, UN prime chapter and I was successful, I was granted. The funding.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

So have you got the game or are you working on it at the moment?

Dr Madina Tash

I developed it, I developed it and I tested it and it went wow. So the.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

OK.

Dr Madina Tash

The game involves multiple teams, but every team consists of five. Five members and each member is allocated in specific duties, so there can be a Chief Operating Officer, Chief Marketing Officer, Chief Financial Officer, the author and and they all have their own duties and tasks, and there is a. Background information that they're initially provided with and as they go through the game, there are. Notified of unexpected developments and these unexpected developments tend to focus on sustainability related theme and the game generally is centered around testing their understanding of UN sustainability goals and.

Speaker

Mm-hmm.

Dr Madina Tash

Concepts of equality.



Speaker

And.

Dr Madina Tash

Diversity and Environmental Protection and all of the 17 SDG's, whether students were able to reflect sufficient understanding of of the SDG's and the impact of their awareness of the SDG's or their decision making. How would they run a company if they indeed where in a decision making role, would they take into account concepts of sustainability or business ethics? And how would that impact on the actual? External perception of their business, IE on the on the share price of of their actual business. So whenever they would make a decision, they would then see after some time ohh their share price either increased or decreased. So this is reflected of how the market would perceive their decision making. With regards to. Recent developments on the. OK. And it.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Sounds brilliant. Is this something that our audience can find somewhere or how?

Dr Madina Tash

Under lock and key, because I'm still going through further testing, I'm trying to improve this further to incorporate elements of. So that they would be able to actually test their progress alongside other teams. So I'm trying to improve the technology in place, but my advice to fellow lecturers educators would be to look into and to explore.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Right.

Dr Madina Tash

These additional tools, such as games and trading simulations it I call it a trading simulation because it directly reflects toward finance all the concepts of finance are about some of them are into trading and so on. But. It generally is a stimulus. Simulation that is focused on experiential learning for students, and it's something that can be adapted to any subject. It doesn't have to be just for business, it it would be relevant for.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah, Health Sciences, medicine. All. Yeah.

Dr Madina Tash

Awesome. Absolutely. Absolutely. And there is such a vast range of AI fueled platforms these days that enable of working on this. If you haven't had a prior experience or if you are not. Particularly tech driven there, there is a lot of.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah.

Dr Madina Tash

Technology out there that is user friendly and in addition to that there are quite a few of these games and the relations that are actually available for free and you can edit and amend them and do them your your own syllabus or your own topic. To the extent that works. You so my advice would be to to look into taking into account simulations and general experiential learning and focusing on experiential learning in in a playful way that would make it interesting for students to actually. Engage and learn and reflect on their progress.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Really. And thanks, Martina. And then, Ben, you're not nodding. Is that something that you're employing or you are or? So I guess we're going into a bartering phase now. Can we see each other's ideas working in your area or or maybe they may may not work.

Ben Redman

Well, I've certainly been taking notes. I've got a page of notes from. From what Medina has been saying, it's fascinating to hear. And even though, you know the world of art seems, you know, like in a different sphere to the world of finance, my son-in-law works in finance. And so it's something I'm. Of I'm I'm interested in because, you know, one has to be because that's what makes the world go round. So in terms of the pedagogy, yeah, I do like the idea of gamification. I yeah, I I'm. Sort of been lured into the language learning by the Duolingo app, which is all about gamification and and it's silly, and I know it's silly. The the sort of whole I did. Well, I have to keep my streak up and I I'm in a league with other people and I like to stay in the in the. Top

league and. Much to my wife's annoyance, because sometimes on a Sunday night, I'll say I've just got to get a few more points on the board they have in the Diamond League. But yeah, it's gamification and it's proven to work. I know that it works and it's I I haven't quite got around to figuring out how I would apply that in my own. Teaching context, but yeah, there's always potential for these things, I guess. And I certainly love the idea of micro credentials and that is actually something we've been exploring at the Royal Conservatory are just thinking about how that might work. And I can certainly see that would be very useful. Or to have micro credentials in particular. Sort of topics, and certainly in in the world of finance. Finance. Yeah, I can see the, the definite advantage in that. So yeah. Thank you very much, Medina for your inspiration there. And I and it was nice to hear also. Yeah, about broadening students understanding.

Speaker

Thank you.

Ben Redman

Of the UN sustainability Goals, because you know that is something an ethics we can't ignore.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Yeah, but you both touched Tony as well, sustainability quite a bit in your.

Dr Madina Tash

Is that something that you would actually incorporate into your teaching?

Ben Redman

It's something that we try and encourage the students certainly on the M Ed programme, to look at social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of their particular art form. And students are very much looking at the environment and, for example, with certainly you know works that's being done at the Royal Conservatory of Scotland in sustainability, for example with regards to props. For scenery, for a for a production, and actually how to make that kind of those props reusable and so that we're not just. Using things for one run of a, a show, or a performance, how they can be reused to give another example, students looking at because on the Med programme it's it's for teachers working a whole variety of arts disciplines in a variety of different ways, whether it's in higher education further. Education schools, or

in the third sector and. One of the students is looking into photography and the environmental impact of the chemicals used in that, but also ohh well, of course you know everyone takes photos on their iPhone nowadays, but that comes with its own environmental costs. But looking at photography from the point of view of. You know, using plants and just chemicals to create things, people can make their own paper. And of course, you know, going back to the original, you know, the pinhole camera and but also using that as a way of documenting, changing environments in itself. So I mean, there's some really interesting uses here. And I think you know the arts, what better way than to tell people's stories of changing environments and and and climate change. So yeah, the arts definitely has a role in all of this. For sure.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Sounds like. Yeah. Sounds like you're you're very ready to. Yeah. So some swap. These ideas, they will work in in both areas, which is brilliant. I I I would love to hear from Medina as I was finally how and we might not hear from today. But you said that the Bloomberg might be applicable in different disciplines. I would love to hear if you can find a way for music for instance. And.

Dr Madina Tash

All there is a function called art and blue terminal that then allows you to oversee all sorts of art related aspect available on Bloomberg Terminal. It's it's a versatile tool because it's designed for different aspects of life. For example, if you are travelling and you'd like to look up, let's say, best restaurants in the area, you can actually do do that. There is a dine function terminal, yeah. And then.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

Wow.

Dr Madina Tash

Some of the unusual functions involve tracking vessels in the sea and identifying the route that something that some of the. Activist movement actually use Bloomberg Terminal for so that they can know in advance where the next shipment of, for example palm oil, will be delivered to so that they can stage a protest at the port or disrupt the delivery somehow.

Tünde Varga-Atkins

That's brilliant. While I would be interesting if our and both is trackable via Bloomberg, but maybe that's something to find out. Thank you so much for this conversation and I loved hearing about these different examples and let's seal the way to get them out to our island. Thanks for our audiences. Listening. And if you enjoy the your our episode, you can subscribe to our podcast or become a guest if you like. Goodbye for now. And finally, I'm back. Thank you for our guest today. Thank you. Bye.