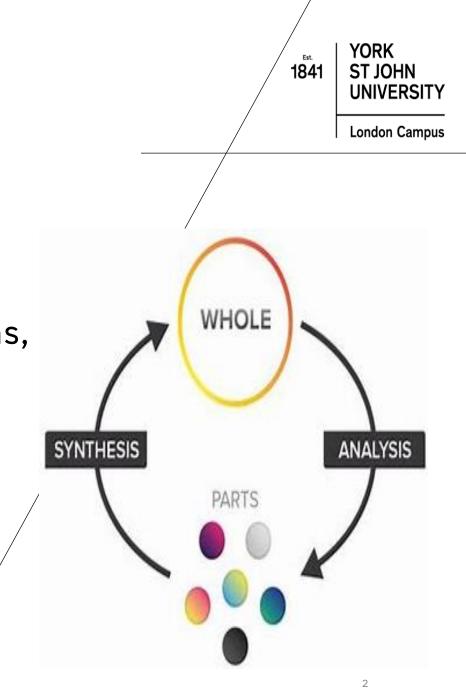


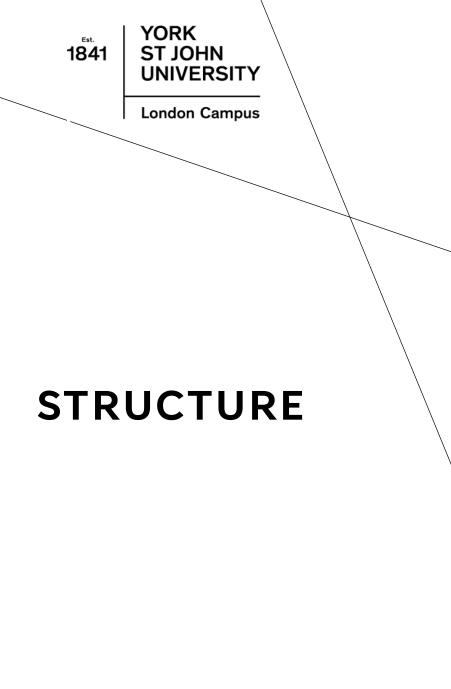
# USING STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF TEACHING (SETs) TO INFORM PEDAGOGY

Dr Catherine Bedwei-Majdoub

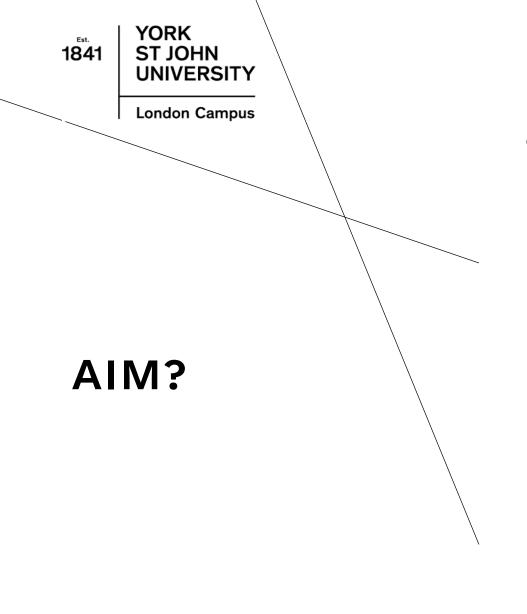
## INTRODUCTION

- Research origin and background
- Student well-being, module evaluations,
   & tutor as coach
- HR as key analytical framework
- Interchanging between HR & HPR





- Introduction & aim of presentation
- SETs what advocates & critics say
- Context of experience, participation, & objective knowledge
- Action research, hermeneutics, & reflective pedagogy
- Why HR and not simply quantitative and qualitative?
- Data, Participants, & Applied Analytical Framework
- Findings via HR Analytic Framework & Principles of Coaching in HE
- $\circ$   $\,$  Using SETs to Improve practice  $\,$
- Questions



To demonstrate how a hermeneutic reflection (HR) on students' open-ended comments (in SETs) about the learning session experienced and lived can illuminate a tutor's understanding of where their practice/pedagogy can be better aligned with their teaching philosophy, using the example of the tutor as coach



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#### Advocates

- Markers of teaching quality (e.g., Bemille et al., 2014)
- Can improve teaching practice (e.g., Boysen, 2016
- Useful for course design (Chuan & Heng, 2013)
- Managing & promoting high scoring tutors.
- o Evidence tutor's effort
- "Counter-claim" to students disputing validity of learning session

#### Critics

SETs – WHAT ADVOCATES & CRITICS SAY

- HE power dynamics nullify relevance (e.g., Esarey & Valdes, 2020; Clayson, 2021)
- 'Empower students to shape faculty behaviour,' (Stroebe (2020:276)
- Deficient evaluative tools Hornstein, 2017)
- Inflation of grades, lowering standards, diluting quality (Stroebe, 2020)
- Biases, esp. against female tutors (Boring et al's, 2016: 1)
- $\circ$  Some students are badly motivated

#### Way Forward

- Necessary evil (e.g., Stroebe, 2020)
- Devalue SETs but do not eliminate (e.g., Hornstein, 2017)
- Can be aligned with tutor goals (e.g., Malouf et al., 2015)
- Summative irrelevant; value is as formative aid (e.g., Malouf et al., 2015, Hornstein, 2017)

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- CONTEXT OF EXPERIENCE, PARTICIPATION, & OBJECTIVE KNOWLEDGE
- Experience & consciousness of the objective learning session
- Interaction, participation, & the shared (objective) experience
- Knowing a stone as a stone importance of SETs for self-awareness

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#### **Action Research**

- Leads to change and the improvement of practice.
- o Is context-specific.
- Approach is flexible; can be quantitative, qualitative or both
- Focus on professional development
- Enables theoretical problemsolving and encourages improved decision-making and actions.

# ACTION RESEARCH, HERMENEUTICS, & REFLECTIVE PEDAGOGY

#### Hermeneutics

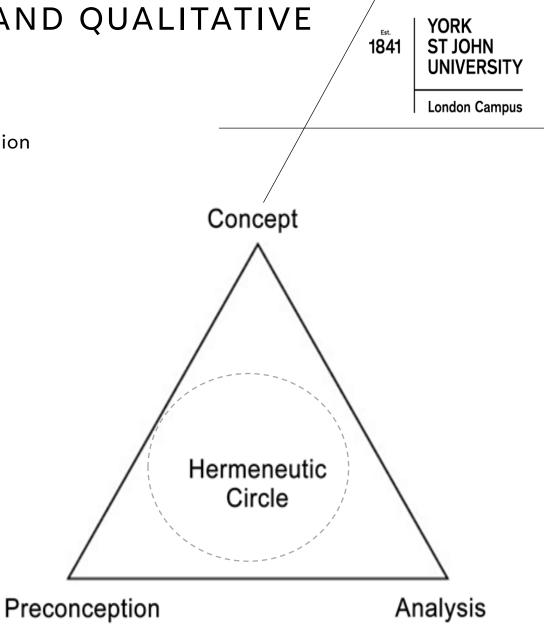
- Mode or principle of interpretation.
- Illuminates conditions for understanding, experience and knowing.
- Entails discovery or construction of meaning through interaction with text
- Priority is lived experience, seeing it lead to real action (van Manen, 1990: 155).
- Goble & Yin (2014:1): hermeneutic research 'brings to light and reflects on the lived meaning' of the experience.
- Appropriate method is recommended by research objectives, so flexible.

#### **Reflective Pedagogy**

- Critical philosophy of action
- Eminently suitable' for pedagogic contexts.' (Van Manen, 1990, in Gable & Yin 2014)
- Personal engagement; situated,
- 'Pedagogic thoughtfulness' beyond institutional bureaucracy
- Understanding students and self as tutor
- Pedagogic improvement via attention to students' lived learning experience (Freire, 1970, 1995, in Dussell, 2019)

# WHY HR, NOT SIMPLY QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS?

- SETs used to give quantified and objective snapshot of teaching session
- Mechanical tally of responses (cf. Malouff et al, 2015) to evidence & justify performance
- Discourages tutors from asking too much of students (Stroebe, 2020)
- Tutors can pass-over or gloss-over minor irregularities.
- But irregularities offer scope for SETs to improve teaching practice & increase ontic value of SETs.
- Intersubjectivity as 'being with others' (Russell, 2007:162) increases understanding
- Subjective consciousness validated by others we interact with.
- $\circ$   $\,$  Use HR to reflect on that interaction  $\,$
- See the Objective World as 'that world which we collectively recogning as having being not just for me but also for you,' (Husserl in Russell, 2007: 163, 164)

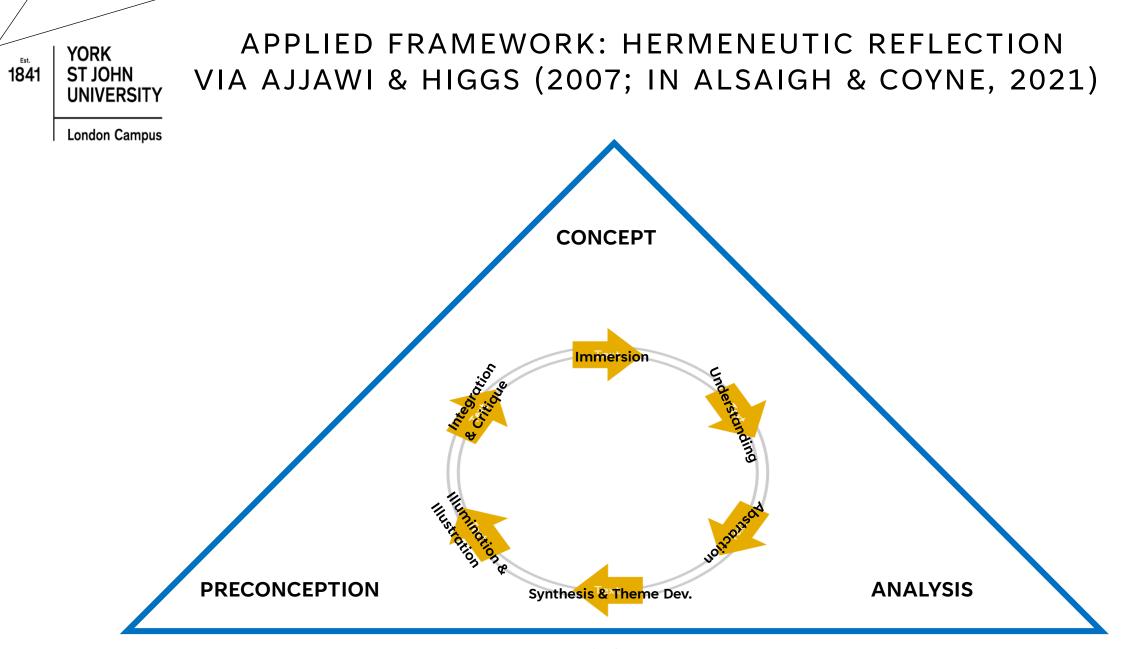




#### CHARACTERISTICS OF DATA & PARTICIPANTS

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<b>HEInstitution</b>	Programme	Module	Level	Students	Data Type
HE1	Stage & Event	Business,	4 & 5	Home, non-	Module
	Mgmt.	marketing, &	27 students	diverse, mixed	evaluation
		employability		motivations as	questionnaires
				may see	evaluating my
				module as	teaching
				extraneous to	
				primary course	
HE2	Events,	Marketing	4, 7	Home, diverse,	Annual module
	Hospitality,		244 students	highly	reports
	Tourism, &			motivated as	summarizing
	Aviation Mgmt.			see module as	students'
				intrinsic to	evaluations of
				their	my teaching
				programme	
HE3	MBA	Employability &	7	International,	Annual module
		work-	106 students	diverse,	report
		placement		motivated by	summarising
		preparation		UK placement	evaluations of
				opportunity.	my teaching





#### MATCHING HR FRAMEWORK TO DATA SOURCES

HPR Mode	Data to be Used	How Used
Immersion	Module Reports HE2-	Identify key problematic of lack in/for my teaching practice.
	3	
	SETs HE1	
Understanding	Module Reports HE2-	Identify key problematic of lack in/for my teaching practice.
	3	Reduce this to a specific area for improvement.
	SETs HE1	
Abstraction	SETs HE1	Use the important features of the area of teaching to be
		improved to analyse and code the SETs.
Synthesis & Theme	SETs HE1	Use the HPR codes (from the above analysis) to pull together
Development		the key themes.
Illumination &	SETs HE1	Use those themes to show how HPR illuminates
Illustration		understanding of practice & illustrates the value of the SETs.
Integration &	Module Reports HE2-	Put together the learning from the above into a conclusion of
Critique	3	HPR for analysing and making use of SETs to improve practice.
	SETs HE1	



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# FINDINGS VIA HR ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK: IMMERSION & UNDERSTANDING

USING STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF TEACHING (SET) TO INFORM PEDAGOGY, Catherine Bedwei-Majdoub

# FROM IMMERSION TO UNDERSTANDING

- Immersion deep mental involvement
- Understanding comprehension and insight
- Highlights importance of hermeneutic reflection over straightforward qualitative & quantitative analysis
- Emphasis on personal integration liberates the mind, allowing for immersion and understanding
- Tutor's consciousness of the learning session is enhanced
- Assessing self through students' perceptions of experience brings understanding into objective realm

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CHING APPRC	PLEASE CROSS THE RESPONSE THAT	Strongly	ITS YOUR Agree	<u>OPINION.</u> Neutral	Disagree	S
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# FINDINGS: IMMERSION & UNDERSTANDING

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- Module reports (HE2-3) and SETs (HE1) majority (96%+) agreed that Ο teaching sessions were well-delivered, interesting, and appropriate.
- Considered themselves well-supported in class and through assessment Ο UNIVERSITY feedback.
  - Comments indicate little interest in theory. Yet students obtain higher Ο grades in modules that use seminars for practicing theory application.
  - Requests assignment briefings on SETs. Yet, attendance drops close to Ο assessment hand-in dates when assessments are being more discussed.
  - Misconceive lecture format: expect the same personalized and intimate Ο interactivity as in seminars.
  - Any minor incident (eg a technical problem) will appear on the SET as Ο if a regular occurrence.
  - Key problematic emerging from immersion: students lack a sufficiently Ο robust understanding of the HE learning context and their own roles in it.

# FINDINGS: IMMERSION & UNDERSTANDING

• Implications of problematic:

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- Gap in students' understanding suggests room for improvement in teaching approach.
- Favouring an enquiry-based model (Jenkins, 2015) and idea of tutor as coach (Catteeuw, 2013) but didactic activity not actively emancipating and empowering students
  - Module reports (HE2-3) evidence this lack.
  - Questioning of relevance of theory resulted in change of delivery from 1-hour theory and 2-hour seminar to 3-hr workshop interjected with short pockets of theory.
  - Move to reassure management
  - Tone of writing and word choices are apologetic & outcome is reductive
  - Hermeneutic reflection gives opportunity to deeply explore what is lacking in teaching approach and other ways to respond to the problem
  - Shouldn't tutors give students an appreciation, if not love, for theory?



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#### ABSTRACTION & THEMATIC ANALYSIS

USING STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF TEACHING (SET) TO INFORM PEDAGOGY, Catherine Bedwei-Majdoub

#### INCORPORATING TEACHING PHILOSOPHY (COACHING) INTO PRACTICE THROUGH HR CODING UNIVERSITY

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Features of Coaching: the Tutor as Coach	Corresponding Codes for HPR
'Increases students' self-awareness & capacity for self-discovery,' (O'Neil & Hopkins, 2002)	Self-discovery
'Initiates process of continuous learning & development,' (O'Neil & Hopkins, 2002).	Interest in learning
'Enhances learning & develops personal responsibility,' (Nieuwerburgh, 2012). 'Facilitates self-directed learning through [activities that encourage] questioning, active listening, and other appropriate challenges in a supportive environment,' (Nieuwerburgh, 2012).	Self-directed learner Active participation
'Focuses on the person behind the student by addressing their strengths, ambitions, & passions,' (Gomez, 2012)	Understanding
'Teaches students to listen to their own wisdom,' (Gomez, 2012).	Students' wisdom
Empowers students to learn (Passmore, 2010), & to achieve sustained change,' (Maynard, 2006).	Empowering change

## LIKED BEST: HE1A STUDENTS (EMPLOYABILITY MODULE)



- How it forced me to think differently and look at how I approached tasks the coloured hats. I also liked that it was presented in a condensed way and didn't feel like an overload of information or like it was being unnecessarily dragged out just to fill time. Codes: Self-discovery; interest in learning; students' wisdom.
- The approach of different perspectives, wearing different hats and so on. Codes: Interest in learning.
- PowerPoints. <u>Codes:</u> Self-directed learner.
- I like that I now know what an employer expects of an application, and I feel a lot more confident writing CVs and Cover letters. Codes: Interest in learning; understanding; empowering change.
- Being able to learn why and what makes us employable as creatives. <u>Codes:</u> interest in learning; understanding; empowering change.
- The content and the way on which it was delivered. Codes: Active participation.
- The ability to not only apply it to stage management but any field of future employment.
   <u>Codes:</u> Understanding; empowering change.
- The easily accessible PowerPoints. Codes: Self-directed learner
- I found the module as a whole very informative, and it helped me realise what skills I already have and what skills I need to I improve on. Codes: Active participation; self-discovery.
- The time we took to understand the job market and our employability. <u>Codes:</u> Understanding; empowering change.



# LIKED LEAST: HE1A STUDENTS (EMPLOYABILITY MODULE)

- At times the articles we looked at where lengthy and had a lot of information that was hard to focus on and read. <u>Codes:</u> Self-directed learning.
- Don't have anything specific. <u>Codes</u>: Students' wisdom.
- Nothing. <u>Codes:</u> Students' wisdom.
- I would have liked to be taught more about specifics of how to brand myself, as in what makes a good LinkedIn page/website/Instagram page. <u>Codes:</u> Self-directed learning; active participation; empowering change.
- n/a. <u>Codes:</u> Students' wisdom.
- Information on the essay / portfolio was given later on in the course, would be nice if it
  was explained fully and in detail earlier. <u>Codes:</u> Self-directed learning
- Could do with an additional in-person session closer to the assignment deadline to review/proofread drafts of the assignment. <u>Codes:</u> Students wisdom; self-directed learning.
- Homework. <u>Codes</u>: self-directed learning.
- There was not a part of this that I disliked or did not enjoy I thought it was all very useful and informative.
- Having to go over things I already knew such as cv's and cover letters. <u>Codes:</u> Selfdiscovery; active participation.



# LIKED BEST: STUDENTS HE1B (BUSINESS & MARKETING MODULE)

- How we related business terms directly to how we can use them in our portfolio- it means
  I can go away feeling much more confident about completing it. I also enjoyed learning
  about things that I can use in the future to run a successful business. <u>Codes:</u> Interest in
  learning; self-directed learning; understanding; empowering change.
- Ability to learn new skills to potentially apply in the future and the chance to work in groups for certain tasks. <u>Codes</u>: self-discovery; empowering change; active participation.
- The ability to go back to PowerPoints in my own time to go over information. Also, a mix of videos and written learning. Codes: Self-directed learning; interest in learning.
- The ability to expand my knowledge on my existing business studies knowledge was useful and the things I learned will help me in my show roles and when I leave. Codes: Self-discovery; understanding; empowering change.
- The module is well structured and encouraged discussion about the subjects Thank you for everything, you've been amazing! <u>Codes</u>: Students' wisdom; active participation.
- I felt comfortable to voice out my opinions and ask for help if needed. Codes: Students' wisdom; self-directed learning.
- Collaborating and speaking. Codes: Active participation.
- Everything is clearly explained and I know I have support readily available. Codes: Active participation.
- It's very informative and has helped a lot with my show & event roles. <u>Codes</u>: Interest in learning; Understanding.
- The online resources. <u>Codes</u>: Self-directed learning.
- The group work helped me learn more. Codes: Self-discovery; interest in learning; active participation.



# LIKED LEAST: STUDENTS HE1B (BUSINESS & MARKETING MODULE)

- There wasn't much I didn't like, but sometimes I struggled with the business tools because I had never heard of them before, and it was overwhelming, but now I feel fine with them. <u>Codes:</u> Students' wisdom; self-discovery; self-directed learning.
- Sometimes the slides and information is given very quickly and it's hard to write it all down so slides pre put on the VLE to have open for lesson would be helpful. <u>Codes:</u> Selfdirected learning; active participation.
- Sometimes went into slightly too much detail for what I think we would need typically day to day. Codes: Interest in learning: understanding.
- I found that some of the group discussions were inappropriate and I was made to feel uncomfortable a few times within this. This is nothing to do with the actual content of the course but the comments from students within the group work did seem to be taken too far at times. Codes: Active participation; understanding; self-discovery; self-directed learning; students' wisdom.
- Sessions do feel like they cramped into one month can be quite overwhelming to learn these new things and then instantly apply them to the portfolio alongside other modules.
   <u>Codes:</u> self-directed learning; understanding; empowering change.
- I didn't like the rooms used as some made seeing the screen difficult.
- N/A. <u>Codes</u>: Students' wisdom.
- That I was ill so had to be online. <u>Codes:</u> Self-directed learning.
- Having to balance with other workloads. Codes: Self-directed learning.

# ABSTRACTION OF THEMES VIA HR CODES & UK PROFESSIONAL FRAMEWORK

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HPR Codes for Features of HE Coaching	UK Prof. Framework (Dimensions)	Good Improve			rove
		HE1a	HE1b	HE1a	HE1b
Self-discovery	A1, A2, A3, K1, K4, V1	2	3	1	3
Interest in learning	A1, K1, K2	4	6	0	2
Self-directed learning	A2, K3	2	4	5	10
Active participation	A4, K3, V2	2	8	2	5
Understanding	V3, K3	4	5	0	5
Students' wisdom	A3, A4, K5	1	2	4	5
Empowering change	A5, K4, K5, K6, V4, V3	7	4	3	1



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#### SYNTHESIS & ILLUMINATION

USING STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF TEACHING (SET) TO INFORM PEDAGOGY, Catherine Bedwei-Majdoub

#### SYSTEMIZING THE HR CODES & THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING PRACTICE



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Students' Comments: 'Liked Least'	HPR Coaching Codes	Implications for Teaching Practice
At times the articles we looked at where lengthy and had a lot of information that was hard to focus on and read.	Self-directed learning	Incorporate input on reading strategies at the start of a module, & input on 'why we read' and 'reading in industry' to make the most out of the texts, and the opportunities they present (Richardson, 2015 in Akkerman, 2017). Add a resource on reading onto VLE.
Don't have anything specific. Nothing. n/a. n/a.	Students' wisdom	Following Catteeiuw (2013) Incorporate self-assessment grids into students' induction materials. Tutor students on how to evaluate & critique their learning experience (Gomes, 2012 in Akkerman, 2017). Highlight importance of not overestimating or underestimating themselves (Catteeiuw, 2013). Emphasise the value of the empirical, and help students to 'open-up' and to listen to 'their own wisdom' (Gomes in Akkerman, 2017).
I would have liked to be taught more about specifics of how to brand myself, as in what makes a good LinkedIn page/website/Instagram page.	Self-directed learning; active participation; empowering change.	Increase input on how to approach learning (Richardson, 2015 in Akkerman, 2017) in short modules & how to use resources & examples provided; make clearer the student's place in the learning process & through the personal tutoring system help them to develop healthy levels of self- confidence (Andreamoff, 2016 in Akkerman, 2017); highlight the emphasis on the autonomous learner and CPD in the workplace.
Could do with an additional in-person session closer to the assignment deadline to review/proofread drafts of the assignment	Students wisdom; self-directed learning.	Help students to create learning plans (Akkerman, 2017). Add teaching schedule onto VLE page and also rethink timetable. Send additional reminders of assignment workshops. Invite academic support staff to speak to students about proofreading.

#### SYSTEMISING THE HR CODES & THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHING PRACTICE



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Having to go over things I already knew such as CVs and cover letters	Self-discovery; active participation.	No student on this module produced an effective CV on the first try. So, this student needed the input but has clearly overestimated own ability (Wilson & Gerber, 2008, in McCarthy, 2013). Therefore, regularly & directly feedback to students (Meister & Willyerd, 2010, in Akkerman, 2013) about their weaknesses to increase a more authentic awareness of as their strenghts as well as of the improvements they need to make if they are to be industry ready.
There wasn't much I didn't like, but sometimes I struggled with the business tools because I had never heard of them before, and it was overwhelming, but now I feel fine with them.	Students' wisdom; self- discovery; self- directed learning.	Offer students a mid-module informal "feedback" and chat on how <u>they</u> are getting on (Meister & Willyerd, 2010, in Akkerman, 2013). Add a link onto my email signature for students to slot themselves into my Outlook diary to book 1-2-1 module tutorials.
Sometimes the slides and information is given very quickly and it's hard to write it all down so slides pre put on the VLE to have open for lesson would be helpful. Not having the slide ahead of the lesson, would have liked to prepare.	Self-directed learning; active participation.	Put slides onto the VLE before (not after) each session. Add input into induction on how to take notes during lectures and on active listening skills (Andreamoff, 2016 in Akkerman, 2017). Remind students of thee during sessions.

#### SYNTHESIS & ILLUMINATION: THE EXAMPLE OF GROUP WORK

- Students making 'inappropriate' comments about other students' work accurate but poorly delivered Ο
- Poor delivery was addressed but comments on work subtly reiterated 0

Gomes (2012 in Akkerman, 2017:33): explore meaning of the moment, look for the 'person behind the learner,' С and not on their grades UNIVERSITY

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> Meister & Willyerd (2010 in McCarthy, 2013): millennials require continuous feedback, are needy, tend to overestimate own performance, can rarely self-assess

- HR codes: communicate & reiterate learning outcomes to encourage students' self-discovery, increase interest Ο in learning & sense of personal responsibility, coaching on how to anticipate & respond to criticism
- Also on how to deliver feedback, how to learn, & how to recognise learning opportunities Ο
- Catteeuw (2013): tutors reconceived as learning facilitators Ο
- Incorporate activities that ask students to self-reflect and to be empathetic (Catteiuw, 2013; Richardson, Ο 2015, in Akkerman, 2017).
- The moment itself teaches only when students develop the habit of asking what they can learn from it Ο
- The tutor-coach leads students to the learning moment Ο



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#### INTEGRATION & CONCLUSIONS

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# INTEGRATION & CONCLUSIONS

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- Aim: 'to demonstrate how a hermeneutic reflection on students' responses to open-ended questions on the SETs can be used to illuminate and improve teaching practice?'
- **Response:** immerse in SETs (via MRs and past SETs) to improve understanding of key problematic in teaching practice; obtain an objective and accepted definition of that problematic; use that definition to code the text; apply the codes to identify areas for real improvement.
- Move towards teaching practice that learns from students' lived experiences
- HR coding helps to prioritize & self-evaluate in line with teaching philosophy
- SETs are not always effective measures of teaching quality but are efficient formative tools
- HR illuminates and facilitates self-evaluation in line with chosen teaching philosophy and pedagogy aspired to

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# THANK YOU & QUESTIONS?

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