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INTERNATIONAL

10th Innovative Learning Spaces Summit

10-12 September 2025

Amsterdam, Netherlands

10th Innovative Learning Spaces Summit

10-12 September 2025
Hotel NH Amsterdam Schiphol Airport
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Register Now & Save 20%

CHAIR

Ann Allen
Executive Director Campus Innovation and Development
University of Leeds

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Peter Verbist
Library Director
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

VUB

SPEAKER LINE-UP

Ciara McCaffrey
University Librarian & Director, Library & Information Services Division
University of Limerick

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Ed Fay
Director of Library Services and University Librarian
University of Bristol

University of BRISTOL

Trevor Payne
Director of Estates
University of Oxford

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Anne-Francesca Bossaert
Product Owner Learning Spaces
University of Amsterdam

Eric Alvarado
AVP Digital Strategy
St. John's University

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Stefan Nowicki
Director of the Distance Learning Centre
University of Wroclaw

Uniwersytet Wrocławski

Raymond Coderre
Head of Learning and Development
KAUST (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology)

KAUST

Linda Goodacre
Director of Estates and Facilities Management
The University of Sheffield

University of Sheffield

Philip Watson
Chair, Head of Design
HLM Architects

HLM Architects

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SPEAKER LINE-UP

Noelia Noël
Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
University of Surrey

Karl Brown
Associate, Architect
HLM Architects

Becca Ferrari
Associate Dean for Academic Programmes and Student Succes
Arden University

Max Hergenrother
Associate Dean of Academic Technology and Pedagogic Innovation
St. John's University

Sarah Davies
Director of Education Innovation
University of Bristol

Ina-Maija Tillmanns
Senior Applied Research Consultant
Steelcase

Michael Winokur
Head, Systems Engineering, Faculty of Technology Management
HIT - Holon Institute of Technology

Dimitris Tolias
Dean for Digital Learning and Education Innovation
Hellenic American University

Kyra Hidding
Advisor at the Learning and Innovation Center (LIC)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Hermen Lutje Berenbroek
Design Strategist
Artifizer

Jakob Fruchtmann
University Lecturer in Sociology, School of Business, Social & Decision Sciences
Constructor University

John Augeri
Center for Teaching & Learning Director
UNIF - Université Numérique Île-de-France

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10th Innovative Learning Spaces Summit

10-12 September 2025

Hotel NH Amsterdam Schiphol Airport
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Register Now & Save €300

We are pleased to announce the return of the **10th Innovative Learning Spaces Summit**, which will take place on **September 10–12** in **Amsterdam, Netherlands**. Building on the success of previous editions, this year's summit will focus on the latest innovations, strategies, and technologies shaping the future of educational facilities. From AI-powered tools and immersive learning environments to sustainable campus ecosystems and inclusive design, the event will explore how learning spaces can be transformed to enhance student engagement, support well-being, and drive academic excellence. The summit will gather learning space professionals, innovative architects and leading technology providers to foster collaboration, exchange ideas, and uncover transformative solutions for reimagining learning experiences. Join us to discover inspiring real-world examples, engage in thought-provoking discussions, participate in hands-on workshops, and leave equipped with actionable ideas to redefine the learning spaces of tomorrow.

Key Practical Learning Points

- Designing Flexible and Modular Learning Spaces to Enhance Collaboration and Creativity
- Leveraging AI-Powered Tools for Personalized Learning and Student Support
- Integrating AR/VR Technologies to Create Immersive Educational Experiences
- Developing Spaces for Lifelong Learning Across All Age Groups and Educational Needs
- Implementing Advanced Audiovisual Systems for Seamless Hybrid Learning
- Building Smart Campus Ecosystems with IoT-Connected Learning Environments
- Utilizing Real-Time Data Analytics to Optimize Student Engagement and Learning Outcomes
- Incorporating Sustainable Materials and Practices for Eco-Friendly Learning Spaces
- Creating Inclusive and Sensory-Friendly Zones for Diverse Learners
- Fostering Learning Through Nature – The Impact of Biophilic Design on Student Well-Being and Cognitive Performance

Take a Look at the Past Edition

Explore Our Hybrid Events' Experience

Venue

NH Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

Kruisweg 495. Hoofddorp, 2132 NA Amsterdam The Netherlands
nhschipholairport@nh-hotels.com | +31 20 655 0550

Who Should Attend

This summit will bring together Directors, Heads, Managers, Principals, Deans, Professors, Architects, and Senior Level Executives dealing with:

- Higher Education
- Estates and Facilities
- Space Design and Planning
- Student Experience
- Library Services
- Educational Development
- Future-focused Education
- Learning Technology
- Blended Learning and eLearning
- Learning Programmes
- Teaching Innovation
- Learning Environment
- & Others!

X 3 Hands-on Workshops
engage in interactive, expert-led sessions designed to provide practical insights and real-world applications

X 15+ Practical Case Studies
explore practical lessons from real-world applications and refine your approach with insights from industry leaders

X 20+ Hours of networking:
forge new professional contacts during numerous networking breaks between sessions & during the special Networking Dinner on Day 1

X 100+ Pages of the Post-Summit Materials
documentation package available upon demand *

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WORKSHOP DAY

IN-PERSON ONLY WORKSHOPS - Exclusively for This Year's Edition!

The first day of the 10th Innovative Learning Spaces Summit will feature three dynamic in-person workshops designed to foster learning, idea-sharing, and initial networking opportunities for professional growth. Led by skilled and experienced facilitators, these sessions will offer fresh perspectives on innovative learning, introduce new strategies and techniques, and encourage novel ways of thinking.

13:00 Check-In and Welcome Coffee

13:20 Opening Address from the Chair

13:30 WORKSHOP

Mapping Stakeholder Needs: A Visual Thinking Approach for Learning Spaces

Drawing is not just for artists; it's a fundamental skill that enhances collaboration and co-creation. It makes it easier for people to remember information, understand patterns, and learn collectively. During this workshop, you will experience how visual thinking unlocks collaboration and co-creation.
Quickly moving from theory to practice, we apply our newly acquired visual thinking skills to tackle a real-world challenge: designing learning spaces by mapping the needs of different stakeholders. We will co-create visual concepts that highlight the diverse perspectives and requirements of students, educators, and other key stakeholders.

Moderated by:

Hermen Lutje Berenbroek
Design Strategist
Artifizer

ARTIFIZER

14:30 Networking break

14:50 WORKSHOP

Experiencing Hybrid Social Spaces: Embodiment, Emotion and Identity

This interactive workshop explores re-contextualizing communication for learning in hybrid social spaces. As educational institutions navigate the post-pandemic era, there is a critical need to address the challenges of digital disconnect while leveraging emerging technologies to create more effective learning environments. Participants will engage in a hands-on exploration of twin physical and virtual spaces, examining how different layers of reality—from physical spaces to screens, AR, and VR—can be meaningfully integrated to create coherent hybrid learning environments.

Moderated by

Jakob Fruchtmann
University Lecturer in Sociology, School of Business, Social & Decision Sciences
Constructor University

CONSTRUCTOR UNIVERSITY

15:50 Coffee Break

16:00 WORKSHOP

Engaging Students and Staff to Reimagine the Existing Estate to Provide Inspiring Spaces

This workshop explores how actively involving students and staff in the design and development of learning spaces can create environments that foster well-being, engagement, and academic success. Through case studies and interactive discussions, participants will discover strategies for integrating feedback-driven design, flexible learning and teaching areas, and well-being-focused spaces that are more efficient and collaborative. Utilisation rates are notoriously low in higher education institutions, and this session will explore how embracing a collaborative approach can enable institutions to transform their built environments into effective, sustainable, inclusive, and inspiring spaces for all.

Moderated by:

Philip Watson
Chair, Head of Design

Karl Brown
Associate, Architect

HLM Architects

HLM Architects

17:00 Chair's Closing Remarks and End of Day One

08:30 Check-In and Welcome Coffee

09:00 Opening Address from the Chair

09:10 Icebreaking Bingo Session: Network, Chat, and Win!
A fun and fast-paced bingo-style networking session where participants connect through shared experiences, spark conversations, and build new relationship

ENHANCING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS WITH INNOVATIVE TECH SOLUTIONS

09:50 SPONSORSHIP SLOT

Transforming Learning Environments with AR/VR – Creating Immersive Educational Experiences

Join this presentation to explore how cutting-edge AR and VR technologies are transforming education by creating immersive, interactive learning experiences. Discover how virtual simulations, augmented environments, and experiential learning tools enhance student engagement, improve knowledge retention, and bridge the gap between theory and practice. Gain insights into real-world applications and best practices for integrating AR/VR into the classroom to foster creativity, collaboration, and personalized learning.

10:30 Case Study:

Digital Transformation – Unlocking the Potential of Space and Time on the University Campus

SMART Campus & Digital Estates: outlining the SMART Campus approach at the University of Oxford and the aims to support World Class research, improving efficiency along with enhancing student & staff experience and reducing the environmental impact as a result of using technology and data. The Digital Estate Journey will highlight connectivity, technology, and environmental sustainability. It addresses challenges, opportunities, and aspirations to deliver digital transformation in the HE setting whilst managing changing expectations of staff and students.

Trevor Payne
Director of Estates
University of Oxford

11:10 Morning Coffee and Networking Break

11:40 Case Study:

Forging a New Era of Innovation: The St. John's Technology Hub

This presentation explores St. John's University's space planning initiative to create a cutting-edge Technology Hub to redefine campus innovation and generate new revenue opportunities. The Hub includes a competitive Esports ecosystem, an Immersive Game Development Lab, an AI Innovation Studio, and a Cyber Defense Range. The Hub will enhance academic excellence, expands outreach through summer camps and adult education, and promote entrepreneurship in collaboration with the business incubator. Participants will gain insights into building their collaborative hubs, emphasizing the vital role of higher education professionals in shaping the future of learning.

Eric Alvarado
AVP Digital Strategy

Max Hergenrother
Associate Dean of Academic Technology and Pedagogic Innovation

St. John's University

12:20 Case Study:

Optimizing Learning Spaces at the University of Amsterdam: Transform Data into Action

Imagine knowing exactly when every learning space at the University of Amsterdam is occupied and using that data to revolutionize your management strategies.
Join us to explore how this information can transform:
• Usage and policy development
• Strategic planning and resource optimization
• Enhancing user experience and sustainability
Discover how informed decisions can optimize and continuously improve learning spaces, and learn about the sensor technology that makes these insights possible.

Anne-Francesca Bossaert
Product Owner Learning Spaces
University of Amsterdam

13:00 Business Lunch

DESIGNING FLEXIBLE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING SPACES

14:00 WORKSHOP

Neuro-Architecture and Productivity

This session explores Neuro-Architecture and its relationship with productivity in the learning spaces. It examines how aesthetics and other environmental influences can enhance functionality, improve productivity, student well-being, emotional and social connectivity, and creativity.

Moderated by:

Ina-Maija Tillmanns
Senior Applied Research Consultant
Steelcase

15:00 Case Study:

Revolutionizing Hybrid Learning: A Sustainable, Interactive, and Digitally Integrated Classroom Transformation

As hybrid education becomes an integral part of modern academia, institutions must rethink how they design learning spaces to support both physical and virtual participation. In response to this challenge, our institution has launched a large-scale project to transform all teaching classrooms, ensuring seamless integration between students attending on campus and those joining remotely.

Dimitris Tolias
Dean for Digital Learning and Education Innovation
Hellenic American University

15:30 Afternoon Tea and Networking Break

16:00 Case Study:

Fostering Learning Through Dynamic and Collaborative Spaces at LIC

This topic explores how the ULB and VUB demonstrate their commitment to becoming a leading force at the crossroads of education, research, and the corporate world through our Learning and Innovation Center (LIC). The LIC serves as a living laboratory for interactive learning and cross-disciplinary collaboration. Learn how we leverage state-of-the-art teaching spaces and flexible study areas to foster active learning and facilitate knowledge exchange. We'll share our experience and practical insights from implementing technology-enhanced learning environments that promote student ownership and engagement, as well as innovative teaching methods.

Peter Verbist
Library Director

Kyra Hidding
Advisor at the Learning and Innovation Center (LIC)

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

16:30 Case Study:

Designing an Adaptive Learning Ecosystem to Target Skill Development, Strengthen Collaboration, and Advance Research Impact in a Novel, University Environment

• KAUST is a graduate-level science and technology university in Saudi Arabia focused on basic and translational science, as well as research commercialization.
• This talk will highlight how we designed a hybrid learning ecosystem that taps into expertise across administrative and research domains, while cultivating new skills to address complex challenges.
• By leveraging virtual learning, adaptive project-based experiences, diverse communities, and data-driven skill development, we are orchestrating learning to support strategic priorities and foster peer-learning, problem-solving, information sharing, and mentorship.

Raymond Coderre
Head of Learning and Development
KAUST (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology)

17:00 Chair's Closing Remarks and End of Day Two

18:00 Networking Dinner

08:30 Check-In and Welcome Coffee 📱

09:00 Opening Address from the Chair

SHAPING THE LEARNING SPACES OF TOMORROW

09:10 SPONSORSHIP SLOT

Elevating Hybrid Learning with State-of-the-Art Tech Tools

- Leveraging AI, VR, and AR to create immersive and interactive learning experiences.
- Enhancing collaboration through digital whiteboards, smart classrooms, and virtual meeting platforms.
- Optimizing hybrid learning environments with adaptive soundscapes and real-time analytics.
- Best practices for integrating emerging tech to improve student engagement and outcomes.

09:50 Case Study: 🔍

Learning Spaces in a Hybrid/HyFlex Future: International Insight on the Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities

The perspective of a Hybrid and HyFlex future for Higher Education, especially envisioned since the COVID pandemic, is challenging the stakeholders and the practitioners by raising fundamental questions about the very definition of the Learning Spaces, and more globally of a university campus as the Learning Territory. This talk will propose to discuss these dynamics through an international insight on:
- The pre/post-pandemic global trends and evolutions of Learning Spaces typologies and diversity
- The stakes and the perspectives of a mainstream Hybrid/HyFlex future
- The challenges and the opportunities of Learning Spaces in these new paradigms

John Augeri
Center for Teaching & Learning Director
UNIF - Université Numérique Île-de-France

10:30 Morning Coffee and Networking Break ☕

11:00 Case Study: 🔍

Create, Collaborate, Commune: Reimagining Out-of-Classroom Student Learning Spaces

Student learning spaces on campuses are being reimagined in recent years, as pedagogy moves away from didactic towards active learning methods. In support of this new way of learning, students are required to work in groups, to go beyond traditional assignments to deliver presentations, create video and audio output, design 3D objects, interact with virtual realities. When class is over, where do students go to conduct their engaged, active learning and assessment? This presentation will showcase the University of Limerick in the Republic of Ireland, where the Library has radically reimagined its services to provide collaborative and technology-enhanced spaces available to all students on campus. The Edge at UL Library includes a digital scholarship centre, makerspace, greenscreen rooms, podcasting rooms, data visualisation lab as well as wellness and event spaces. Projects under development include a Creative Lab and an Immersive Lab.

Ciara McCaffrey
University Librarian & Director, Library & Information Services Division
University of Limerick

11:30 Case Study: 🔍

Designing Inclusive Classrooms: Embracing Diversity and Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Every Student

Inclusive learning spaces play a critical role in fostering student success and engagement. This talk will explore best practices for designing classrooms that cater to diverse student needs while promoting equity and belonging. Key themes will include:
- The impact of inclusive design on student learning and well-being
- Strategies to remove barriers and enhance accessibility in learning environments
- Implementing curriculum and teaching practices that embrace diversity
- Leveraging technology to support personalised learning and inclusion

Noelia Noël
Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
University of Surrey

12:00 Case Study: 🔍

Creating Inclusive Learning Environment for Closing the Digital Competencies Gap Between HE Students

Bridging the digital competencies gap is essential for creating an inclusive and future-ready learning environment. Effective instructional design goes beyond knowledge transfer, emphasizing practical application, critical thinking, and social engagement. By integrating progressive skill development and innovative digital tools, education can foster both subject mastery and creative problem-solving. This approach ensures students are not just passive learners but active participants in shaping their own learning journey.

Stefan Nowicki
Director of the Distance Learning Centre
University of Wroclaw

12:30 Business Lunch 🍽

13:30 Case Study: 🔍

Beyond the Classroom: Reimagining Learning Spaces as Hubs for Community, Access, and Real-World Experience

Universities have a civic duty to serve not just their students, but the communities around them. Yet traditional learning spaces—lecture halls, libraries, and labs—often remain inaccessible to those who would benefit most from higher education's resources. What if we reimagined learning environments as open, flexible, and deeply connected to local needs? This talk explores how universities can extend their reach through innovative learning spaces that provide hands-on experiences for diverse and underrepresented learners. Imagine mobile STEM and creative labs bringing practical, interdisciplinary learning directly into communities. Picture university-led design studios co-creating solutions with local businesses, charities, and policymakers. Envision universities as active partners in civic life, where learning spaces serve as incubators for local innovation and social mobility.
By transforming learning spaces into civic assets—bridging academia, industry, and local communities—universities can create more inclusive, practice-based education that benefits both students and society. This session challenges us to rethink the role of universities in shaping not just graduates, but thriving, knowledge-driven communities.

Becca Ferrari
Associate Dean for Academic Programmes and Student Succes
Arden University

14:00 Case Study: 🔍

Creating a Sustainable Learning Ecosystem: Developing a Learning Campus Strategy

The University of Bristol is a research-intensive institution in a vibrant city with a vision to provide an inspiring education and transformative student experience. Its curriculum is grounded in active learning and authentic assessment with student partnership and social impact at its heart. We will describe the development of our learning campus strategy which will deliver a dynamic learning environment across a complex and historic city-centre campus.

Ed Fay
Director of Library Services and University Librarian

Sarah Davies
Director of Education Innovation

University of Bristol

14:30 Case Study: 🔍

Designing the Campus of the Future Including Moving to Net Zero

This session will explore the integration of innovative, connected learning spaces to create a sustainable and future-ready campus. Linda will also discuss Sheffield Way new customer service initiative designed to enhance the student experience. Join to discover how Sheffield is shaping the campus of tomorrow while progressing toward net-zero goals.

Linda Goodacre
Director of Estates and Facilities Management
The University of Sheffield

15:00 Case Study: 🔍

Transforming Traditional Labs: Concept, Implementation and Real Life Experience

This presentation explores the implementation of remote laboratories at HIT, building on the conceptual framework introduced in Prague (2023). It highlights key milestones, including the DEETECHTIVE project in Wroclaw (2024) and a HIT workshop enabling Central Asian students to control HIT's robotics lab remotely. The discussion covers emerging trends in IoT-based remote labs, AI-driven Real-Time Systems Virtual Labs, and their impact on student engagement. It provides insights for academic leaders, instructional designers, and technology developers, focusing on expanding access to hands-on learning in technical education.

Michael Winokur
Head, Systems Engineering, Faculty of Technology Management
HIT - Holon Institute of Technology

15:30 Chair's Closing Remarks and End of Summit

* TBC

Ann Allen
Executive Director Campus Innovation and Development
University of Leeds

Ann is the Director of Innovation and Campus Development at the University of Leeds. Ann's professional background is in asset management and construction and has worked for over 35 years across a diverse number of organisations including central government, banking, and retail as well as working in Higher Education.

Ann is Chair of Architecture Design Scotland. She is a Board member of Crown Estate Scotland and Water Industry Commission for

Scotland. She is a strong advocate for diversity in property and construction and was until recently Chair of the Scottish Board of Women in Property.

Hermen Lutje Berenbroek
Design Strategist
Artifizer

Hermen is an accomplished visual thinking expert and design strategist. He collaborates with executives globally to align people and activate strategy and transformation. His visual approach unlocks the human brain's processing power and boosts team creativity and co-creation.

Hermen has worked with several Fortune 500 clients globally for over a decade. Besides client work, Hermen teaches thousands of students worldwide to structure and communicate ideas in his online Visual Thinking course. He regularly volunteers to use his skills and experience to create a positive impact.

Noelia Noël
Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
University of Surrey

Dr Noelia Noël is an award-winning astrophysicist and a leading advocate for inclusive education. She has been recognised for her outstanding contributions to equity, diversity, and inclusion, earning prestigious accolades such as selection for the Royal Society Pairing Scheme and the Santander Women 50 Leadership Programme. A dedicated champion of educational equity, she has played a pivotal role in shaping national and international policy discussions on equitable research funding.

Beyond policy, Dr Noël actively transforms learning environments through impactful initiatives, including the Surrey Physics Academy, research culture programmes, and pioneering Narrative Curriculum workshops. Her work is driven by a commitment to dismantling systemic barriers and fostering learning spaces that embrace diversity, equity, and accessibility. As an influential voice in shaping inclusive academic and research landscapes, she continues to inspire institutional change and champion equitable opportunities for all learners.

Max Hergenrother
Associate Dean of Academic Technology and Pedagogic Innovation
St. John's University

Max Hergenrother is the Associate Dean of Technology and Pedagogic Innovation and the Director of the St. John's Design Factory at St. John's University. He holds a BFA and an MFA. Over the past two decades, he has served the university in various roles, including as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Art and Design. In his teaching capacity, he has instructed courses such as Drawing Experiments, Digital Illustration, and Special Topics in Art. Beyond academia, Max is an artist specializing in 3D modeling, 3D printing, custom toys, and illustration. He shares his work on Instagram under the handle @maxmakesit.

Michael Winokur
Head, Systems Engineering, Faculty of Technology Management
HIT - Holon Institute of Technology

Dr. Michael Winokur is a Faculty Member at the faculty of Technology Management at H.I.T – Holon Institute of Technology where he leads the graduate specialty in Systems Engineering. From 2018 and until 2019 he was the Dean of the Faculty.

In 2014 he established the Embedded Systems specialization track for the undergraduates in Electronics Engineering at HIT which he led until 2018. He holds over 50 publications in the subject and lectures frequently in industry and in international conferences.

Dr. Winokur was Director of Corporate Engineering and Development at IAI -Israel Aerospace Industries until 2018, being responsible for development and technology transfer of methods and tools for Systems Development and Engineering for the corporation. In this role he supervised research projects funded by the European Council with a total budget above 1000BU$, personally leading several projects on Systems Engineering Methodology and Applications.

Dr. Winokur has been Chairman of the Israeli Chapter of INCOSE, the International Council for Systems Engineering and Chairman of the Computer Society section of the IEEE in Israel. He holds a B.Sc. "Summa Cum Laude" in Electrical Engineering and an M.Sc. in Nuclear Engineering from the Technion in Haifa Israel; and a Ph.D. in Systems Engineering from Imperial College, London where he did his doctoral research under a British Council fellowship.

Philip Watson
Chair, Head of Design
HLM Architects

Philip originally joined HLM in 1997 as a Part II student, becoming Regional Director by 2003. After a stint at Atkins as Head of Education and then UK Design Director, he rejoined HLM in 2018 as Director and Head of Design. He became the practice's Chair in April 2024.

While Philip's main expertise lies in education, he has gained a wealth of experience across many sectors, including workplace, residential and masterplanning.

Philip is responsible for driving design culture across our studios and has been instrumental in establishing HLM's 'Thoughtful Design' ethos. He passionately believes that good design can positively impact people and society. This ethos now forms the bedrock of HLM's portfolio.

Philip regularly speaks at conferences and writes articles for industry publications on topics such as design for wellbeing, social value, client engagement, modern methods of construction, and environmental sustainability. He is a member of the University Design Forum Research Group and Design Yorkshire Review Panel. In 2019 he was made Visiting Professor at the University of Leeds and in 2020 a Fellow of the RIBA in recognition of his contribution to architecture and the arts.

Jakob Fruchtmann
University Lecturer in Sociology, School of Business, Social & Decision Sciences
Constructor University

Dr. Jakob Fruchtmann, a sociologist specializing in media, economy, and sports, earned his doctorate from the University of Bremen. He has taught at universities like the University of Bremen, Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg and Constructor University. Dr. Fruchtmann leads the CIP initiative, and is Study Program Coordinator of the undergraduate study program Society Media and Politics, as well as Head of the SMP Media Center. He is especially interested in the emergence of meaning out of embodied interaction.

Kyra Hidding
Advisor at the Learning and Innovation Center (LIC)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Kyra Hidding is an Advisor at the Learning and Innovation Center (LIC), part of a collaboration between Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). With a Master's degree in Educational Sciences from VUB and professional experience in curriculum renewal and blended learning initiatives at across VUB faculties she currently specializes in providing educational and technological support for the collaborative learning spaces.

Trevor Payne
Director of Estates
University of Oxford

Leading the University of Oxford's World Class estate with a dedicated and visionary approach to sustainability and innovation, my role as Director of Estates is at the intersection of strategic planning, operational delivery and cutting-edge SmartCampus development and IoT Deployment. With a sector leading and steadfast commitment to net zero carbon and sustainability strategies, my expertise lies in preserving/transforming campus environments of various ages from heritage to new build, through asset management and the implementation of IoT and ensuring a future-ready educational infrastructure - enhancing the experience for students, staff and visitors.

As an external estates advisor for Trinity College Dublin , I leverage my extensive experience in estates & facilities management to guide Masterplanning and real estate strategy for heritage and new build estate, underscored by a history of successful project delivery , efficiency and cost improvements. My professional journey is marked by a dedication to excellence and a proven knack for problem-solving, with an evidenced track record in estate transformation that reflects both operational detail and commercial acuity. I am a visiting lecturer and a frequent presenter on a range of subjects in the UK and Internationally. A trustee for a conservation charity since 2021 and a regular annual judge for the IWFM awards, Construction news awards and the Construction News supporting Women in Construction awards.

My physical legacy at the University of Birmingham can be seen at and includes the delivery of a £1bn capital program ,a new campus in Dubai and numerous award winning projects and refurbishment projects.

Ed Fay
Director of Library Services and University Librarian
University of Bristol

Ed Fay is Director of Library Services and University Librarian at the University of Bristol, responsible for Library strategy, University learning environments, and the Centre for Cultural Collections. He has a decade of experience in higher education leadership and has developed a consciously human-centred approach to community and service development. He has been variously responsible for open research, hybrid learning, and digital scholarship and has a particular interest in progressing the civic mission of universities.

Ciara McCaffrey
University Librarian & Director, Library
& Information Services Division
University of Limerick

Ciara McCaffrey is the University Librarian and Director of Library and Information Services at the University of Limerick in Ireland. She is a member of the European Association of Research Libraries (LIBER) Library Architecture Group and is the chair of the Consortium of National and University Librarians in Ireland (CONUL). She is an advocate of evidence-based practice and has conducted and published primary research that is action-oriented, with the aim of improving library spaces and services.

John Augeri
Center for Teaching & Learning Director
UNIF
- Université Numérique Île-de-France

John Augeri, PhD, is a practitioner and researcher, serving as Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Ile-de-France Digital University, and a regular joint researcher in Japan.

John has been running since 2016 an international comparative study of Learning Spaces trends, stakes, and perspectives, which made him give more than 70 talks and keynotes to the USA, Canada, Europe, Japan, Singapore and Australia. Based in Paris and Tokyo, John is internationally published, and active in major workgroups and professional associations (including EDUCAUSE).

Eric Alvarado
AVP Digital Strategy
St. John's University

Eric Alvarado is the Associate Vice President for Digital Strategy at St. John's University. In this capacity, he oversees the institution's digital initiatives, focusing on integrating technology to enhance academic and administrative functions. He also holds the position of Academic Technology Director, leading efforts to incorporate innovative technologies into the university's educational framework. In addition to his administrative roles, Mr. Alvarado contributes to the academic community as an Adjunct Professor in Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science, as well as the Business Analytics and Information Systems departments within the Lesley H. and William L. Collins College of Professional Studies. His courses include "Data Visualization" and "Data Visualization Apps," which equip students with essential skills in interpreting and presenting data.

Peter Verbist
Library Director
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

In August 2024, Peter Verbist became the new Library Director for Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Manager of the Learning & Innovation Center (LIC), a common project by Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He gained experience in the field of library management, learning centers, teaching spaces and educational innovation.

Dimitris Tolias
Dean for Digital Learning and Education Innovation
Hellenic American University

Dr. Dimitris Tolias is an accomplished applied linguist, educator, and advocate for integrating technology into education. He holds a B.A. in Literature and Linguistics from the University of Athens, an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Exeter, UK, and a Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from Hellenic American University, USA. His academic career began in 1991, teaching writing and research courses at the American College of Greece and later at the University of Athens, where he also taught writing and methodology.

Currently serving as the Dean for Digital Learning and Education Innovation at Hellenic American University, Nashua, NH, USA, Dr. Tolias leads the university's digital transformation initiatives, focusing on integrating cutting-edge technologies, including artificial intelligence, into teaching and learning. He also directs the M.A. in Applied Linguistics/TESOL Program and the Center for Teaching Excellence, where he designs and delivers workshops on pedagogy, assessment, and the ethical use of AI in education.

Dr. Tolias has authored several course books on teaching Greek as a Foreign/Second Language and a handbook for teachers of Greek. His research interests include e-learning, virtual learning environments, and the pedagogical applications of Large Language Models (LLMs) and Natural Language Processing (NLP). Through his work, he empowers educators to embrace AI responsibly, ensuring that technology enhances rather than replaces meaningful teaching and learning experiences.

Karl Brown
Associate, Architect
HLM Architects

Karl is a dedicated architect with a strong focus on sustainability and education projects. Since joining HLM's Sheffield studio in 2015, his work has predominantly focused on the higher education sector. His projects range from small-scale refurbishments to large-scale new buildings.

Karl leads higher education projects across all work-stages and excels at engaging with clients and stakeholders to understand and interpret their aspirations. He thrives in solving complex design challenges with a creative, evidence-led, people-centred approach to architecture.

Karl's commitment to sustainable architecture and his ability to navigate complex design challenges make him a valuable asset to HLM's Sheffield studio.

Becca Ferrari
Associate Dean for Academic Programmes and Student Succes
Arden University

Becca Ferrari is an educational leader dedicated to transforming experiences in higher education. As a pioneer in sustainability focused, team-based engineering design education, they have been instrumental in embedding Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) into curricula, revolutionizing assessment and feedback through technology, and enhancing graduate digital workplace readiness. With expertise in educational leadership, curriculum innovation, and digital transformation, they develop and deliver institutional strategies that bridge academia, industry, and community. Passionate about reimagining learning environments, they advocate for inclusive, hands-on, and community-connected approaches to education.

Ina-Maija Tillmanns
Senior Applied Research Consultant
Steelcase

Ina-Maija has more than 15 years of consulting experience both in the U.S. and EMEA within a wide range of industries. Her special focus is in the areas of work experience strategy and change management. Together with her team, she provides expertise by guiding organizations to navigate through their transformation by uncovering their needs, resulting in holistic workplace solutions in order to achieve their organizational goals.

Stefan Nowicki
Director of the Distance Learning Centre
University of Wroclaw

Digital Competency Trainer for Academic Teachers, instructional designer, graduate of the Institute for Emerging Leadership in Online Learning conducted by the Online Learning Consortium and Washington State University, certified by Microsoft as a PowerPoint Specialist, Word Expert, and Minecraft Trainer. Combines work with passion, continuously improving his methodological skills and conducting courses for academic teachers on the use of digital environments such as Microsoft Office, Moodle, and Minecraft Education. Director of the Distance Learning Center at the University of Wrocław, academic teacher at the Institute of Information and Media Studies at the University of Wrocław.

Raymond Coderre
Head of Learning and Development
KAUST (King Abdullah University
of Science and Technology)

Ray Coderre currently serves as Head of Learning and Development at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), where he is responsible for advancing a world class talent development ecosystem to realize the mission of KAUST and support Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. Prior to joining KAUST, Ray was Director of Learning and People Strategy at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, where he led the institute's approach to talent development for a unique population of faculty, professional scientists, software engineers, and administrative staff spanning Harvard University, MIT, and the Harvard-affiliated hospitals. Ray is a former Harvard faculty affairs dean with 20 years of experience building collaborative research communities, and possesses over a decade of experience teaching and advising undergraduate and graduate students at Harvard College and Harvard Extension School on topics at the intersection of science, technology and society.

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