

# Resilience and optimism: the video diary of a first year international student

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NB – all video links have been removed from this presentation due to confidentiality and the ethical approval of this project.

# The study

- Research question – what are the experiences of students accessing LD & DAS?
- Focus on first-year students
- Longitudinal approach
- Move away from conventional methods of evaluation
- Try to capture a more ‘authentic’ student voice
- Video diaries

# Methodology

- 6 participants
- Regular recordings of experience
- Two semi-structured interviews
- All transcribed and coded for analysis

## Take-two

- 5 participants, only 2 from term one
- Net cast wider
- Incentive offered

# Put yourself in Diane's shoes

Imagine yourself to be touching down in a foreign country about to go to university, what is on your mind both short and long-term?

3 minutes free writing

- don't stop writing, don't think too hard, just write!

# First challenge

Introduce yourself to the person next to you, and give them all the forms of identity you have with you.

Now get up, move around a bit and sit next to someone else.

Ok, how you are feeling right now, and how might that impact on your ability to study if we magnified it x 100?

# Opportunities

- What are they?
- Technology, availability and familiarity
- ‘Thick description’, unconscious awareness
- Numerous and collaborative analytical cycles!
- Powerful presentation of qualitative data
- Particularly useful for vulnerable/closed groups
- Honest, intimate relationship with camera
- Empowers participants
- Transformative process for both

# Second challenge

Two groups for this activity

Group 1 – have all the resources

Group 2 – have pencil and post-it

Provide a visual representation of your experience so far at EFYE2014

# Limitations

- What are they?
- Constructed and interpreted reality
- No protocol
- Time consuming and difficult to interpret, particularly non-verbal data
- Ethical concerns and anonymity
- Recruitment
- Organisation and maintenance
- Direction



# Another hurdle

What two things stand out regarding student life?

“Um student life is definitely the accommodation one I recorded, this is really stressful for all students, and many of us don't know when we need to start looking there's just a few information.”

# Key findings

## Themes

- Feedback
- Library – availability, access, quietness
- Developing communities
- Lecturing approach/style (+ve & -ve)
- Workload
- Accommodation
- Visas

# Any questions?

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