

## **SPARK: Thought leadership panel discussion**

Session Title: **Altered Realities: The Future of Learning**  
Date & Time: 20 January 2019, Sunday, 17.00 – 18.30  
Venue: JC Cube Auditorium, Tai Kwun

### **Summary / Description:**

Extended reality is no longer just for sci-fi films. As technology becomes ever more ubiquitous and affordable, immersive technological experiences are increasingly accessible both to educators and the individual.

Virtual and altered reality technology is already playing a major part in numerous fields from engineering to entertainment, but how can we better prepare for this new world? Technology-based teaching promotes personalised and customised learning experiences, but how will this shape the future of education and what opportunities and challenges does it present? This panel aims to explore such questions and examine how immersive technology will increasingly play a central role in our learning, both in and out of the classroom.

### **Panel Speakers**



#### **Professor Shearer West, Vice Chancellor, University of Nottingham**

Professor Shearer West was appointed as the seventh Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Nottingham in October 2017.

Shearer is a Professor of Art History and has held a number of significant leadership roles in universities and higher education. She obtained her BA degree in Art History and English at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and her PhD in Art History at St Andrews.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, the Higher Education Academy and the Royal Historical Society, she also has a number of international roles, most recently acting as main panel chair for the national research assessment exercise for Humanities in Norway and serving on the steering group to introduce impact into the Excellence in Research exercise in Australia.



**Dr Shaun Hides, Academic, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Coventry University**

Shaun originally trained in Ethno-Archaeology researching the expression of ethnic/cultural identity in material cultural. He also trained in and taught video-making, producing short educational documentaries. Having taught in Leicester and Leeds Metropolitan Universities, He joined Coventry University in 1997, becoming Head of the Media Department in 2009, authoring the Department's 'Open Media Strategy', championing open innovation strategies, which underpinned the Department's rise in UK league tables. In 2012 he led the JISC-funded Coventry Open Media Classes project, exploring open-access and digital-connected media education. In 2013 he established a cross-university innovation center to explore disruptive technologies in Higher Education, Co-directing the £3.4M Disruptive Media Learning Lab. This work has been recognised by JISC, Sony Ericsson, Apple and Adobe. Since 2016 Shaun has been Academic Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, providing strategic leadership for the development of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Arts & Humanities and in the Faculty's new building project.




**Professor Christina Hong, President, Technological and Higher Education Institute (THEi)**

Professor Christina Hong is the President of the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi).

Prof Hong has a strong background in educational leadership with an emphasis on change management, digital learning transformation and educator capability, industry partnerships, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Prior to commencing with THEi, Prof Hong was the Chief Academic Officer for TAFE Queensland, Australia. Her other prior roles have included: Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive, Southbank Institute of Technology; Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning), Queensland University of Technology, Australia, as

	<p>well as a number of senior positions in the tertiary education sector in New Zealand.</p> <p>Prof Hong has disciplinary expertise in the creative industries and in teacher education. She has led curriculum development, professional standards setting and assessment reform projects in the school and professional education sectors and undertaken international consultancies, including visiting scholar appointments in the USA, the Republic of South Korea and Hong Kong.</p> <p>Prof Hong holds a Doctor of Philosophy (AUS), Master of Arts (USA), Bachelor of Arts (Hons), Graduate Diploma of Education, and Diploma of Teaching (NZ). She is a Graduate of the Harvard University, Institute for Management and Leadership in Higher Education, and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.</p> <p>Professor Christina Hong will share the opportunities and challenges facing the Vocational and Professional Education Training (VPET) sector as leaders, educators and partners evolve SMART campus environments and engage in curriculum renewal <i>for</i> and <i>with</i> Hong Kong industries and professions to enable student learning transformation and readiness for the <i>altered realities</i> of work and portfolio careers in the C21st.</p>
	<p><b>Kevin Tibble, Learning Technology Adviser, ESF</b></p> <p>Kevin is the Learning Technology Adviser for the English School Foundation's 22 Primary schools and Kindergartens. He is passionate about using technology to create transformative learning experiences for children of all ages. He has developed a new approach to Digital Citizenship within the foundation, that moves the focus from technology to behaviour, and combines an in-depth student education with parent workshops and talks. He is currently working in collaboration with Hong Kong University and City University on a research project developing an evidence based approach to teaching coding to Primary aged children. He has recently given a keynote speech at the IB China Education Forum, where he highlighted how ESF schools are using STEAM to enrich the learning of their students.</p>

	<p>Kevin advises senior leadership teams and classroom teachers on how technology can be utilised creatively within classrooms, demonstrating how it can be used to reimagine learning and give students opportunities to create. He believes that to be ready for the future, young children need to be able to use a range of digital tools safely, securely and with confidence.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator and Lead:</b>  <b>Chris Geary, CEO, BSD Education</b></p> <p>Chris founded BSD Education in 2013, an educational software and curriculum provider that enables teachers in schools to integrate technology projects and the education of digital skills into their lessons. BSD has since grown to work with schools around the world and has teams located in Hong Kong, Thailand and the United States.</p> <p>Chris is the founder of the Fargo Foundation, a non-profit social enterprise focused on creative and technology education for at-risk communities, and a School Councilor of Discovery College in Hong Kong. He was shortlisted in the Enterprising Young Brits Awards 2007. In 2011 Chris was nominated as a Global Shaper and Hong Kong Founding Curator by the World Economic Forum, joining the Global Advisory Council of this community in 2016. In 2018 Christopher was awarded as a “10 Outstanding New Hong Kong Young Persons” by the Happy Life Education Foundation.</p>