Simulations and Collaborative Learning in Spanish Language and Culture: a Way Forward for the Enhancement of Employability in Arts Subjects?

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As highlighted in the recent report on employers' perceptions of the employability skills on new graduates in the UK published by the Edge foundation, there is need for more imagination, initiative and flexibility in the area of course design. However, the embedment of employable skills in Arts subjects such as Literature, History or Modern Languages and Cultures is not as straightforward as in other subjects in which the connections between the learning experience and specific professions are obvious.

During the course of this talk, several professional enquiry-based learning activities in Spanish Language and Culture, which can be exported to other languages and subjects within the Arts, will be presented and discussed. Particular attention will be given to how academic standards and student motivation can actually be raised thanks to this methodology and how simulations foster "transferring skills".

   I. Introduction

   II. SCORE-funded project "Review and Endorsement of Open Educational Resources (OERs) by Graduate-Recruiting Employers" (in HumBox);

   III. Some ethical and educational considerations about curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular employability;

   IV. Examples of socio-constructivist learning activities in Iberian Studies and Languages:

      a. Barak Obama in Spain;

      b. Collaborative online assignments for Portuguese Literature Final Year Module;

      c. Collaborative writing for publication in Final Year Spanish Language;

   V. Discussion

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