Presentation: *Mind the Gap please: Integrating sustainable assessment practices to simulate and develop professional identity and behaviour for practice.*

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Abstract:

Professional Legal Education is an important opportunity to provide legal graduates with the safe environment for testing, developing and reflecting on their professional identity and behaviour for practice.

Since 2010, ANU Legal Workshop has sought to provide integrated simulated legal practice learning environment to enable students of the Graduate of Diploma Practice to carry out this development. Fundamental to this model are elements of collaboration, reflection and sustainable assessment practices that emulate the experiences for professional development that graduates are likely to encounter in the workplace.

This paper will describe the model used and the evaluation of this capstone experience through the lenses of:

- Boud/Falchikov’s concepts of sustainable assessment;
- Krieger’s concepts of the importance of self-determination theory in professional identity and wellbeing; and
- The power of collaboration and reflection in creating and supporting professional identity formation.
Anneka convenes Professionalism in Practice and Legal Practice Trust Accounting within the Professional Practice Core (PPC) course in the ANU Legal Workshop’s Masters of Legal Practice. Prior to joining ANU, Anneka worked as a personal injury litigation solicitor in both private and government practice. Her teaching motivation derives from her early years in legal practice where she realised how little was taught at university about operating, surviving and thriving in legal practice and, since 2012, her research has evaluated the impact of our courses on student wellbeing, professional/ethical identity and readiness for practice. More recently, this has elicited some very important results regarding how values and self-determination theory can be promoted using the pedagogy employed in the PPC.

Anneka has been a fellow of the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism (NIFTEP) July 2012 workshop in Banff and received an ANU College of Law Award for Teaching Excellence (Team teaching) in 2012 and Vice Chancellors Citation for Excellence in Education in 2103. Her two most recent conferences papers have been presented to the 9th Annual Global Legal Skills conference in Verona and the American Association of Law Schools 2014 Annual Meeting in New York. Publications include 'The possibility of wellbeing: preliminary results from surveys of Australian professional legal education students' QUT Law Review, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 27-51 (with Stephen Tang); and ‘Desperately Seeking ... Relevant Assessment? A Case Study on the Potential for Using Online Simulated Group Based Learning to Create Sustainable Assessment Practices’, Legal Education Review VOLUME 22 (2012) No 1&2 (with Elizabeth Lee).