

Title: **Exploring ePortfolio-ness**

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Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Distinguish between the constructs of portfolio as purpose, process, platform and presentation
- Recognise the difference between author-centric and task-centric portfolios and the contexts within which each is most appropriate
- Differentiate between portfolio formats and the purposes to which each is most appropriate
- Consider (and evaluate) a framework for determining 'portfolio-ness'

Session Outline

The considerable increase in academic articles, conferences and academic practice, testifies that (e)portfolio use is becoming ever more prevalent, more sophisticated and core to the learning experience of increasing numbers of diverse users – staff and students.

As with all emergent technologies, approaches or practices a clarity of language that is widely shared and understood aids rather than hinders its growth and acceptance. This session will engage participants in a guided discussion designed to aid our shared understanding of the language of electronic portfolios, and so enhance our appreciation of this transformative, even disruptive, approach.

Failure to distinguish between the system and presentational outputs is at the heart of much conversational confusion about portfolios, along with a growing sense of portfolio practices being independent of the technology itself. In this session we will share a model presenting four interdependent portfolio constructs.

Through a series of defining questions related to purpose, intentionality, content and audience we will examine portfolio formats and will introduce three: the narrative, the mapping and the aggregating types and provide examples of these in current practice.

We will also explore a framework designed to aid our consideration of what makes a portfolio a portfolio, and not just one of many other kinds of web presence.

This session is not about any particular portfolio technology or approach though it is grounded in extensive experience and observation of practice.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

This session is intended to be entirely conversational. The conversation will be guided by Lisa Hayes who will attempt to hold Shane to account for the assertions he makes. We will of course, encourage participation, challenge and alternative viewpoints from those attending this session.

As it unfolds it will present 3 core ideas central to understanding portfolio (systems) as platforms for personal learning and development.

The ideas relate to:

- the, often ambiguous, language of portfolio
- the format and appropriateness of 3 distinct portfolio-as-presentation types
- the usefulness of a framework for examining 'portfolio-ness'

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