This session will explore how higher education developers might take advantage of their positions as 'unbounded professionals' in order to innovate and collaborate (Whitchurch, 2008). Developers tend to be positioned in the fluid third space situated between the academic and professional, and so are not limited by traditional roles and structural boundaries. We work in a space within the organisation that gives us freedom to evolve our services. To what extent are we doing this in response to the enormous changes and challenges our organisations are facing? What might it look like if we did?

This talk will explain the rationale behind the 'sweet' activities undertaken by the Oxford Centre for Staff and Learning Development (OCSLD), in order to explain our approach to development in the third space. After undertaking a portfolio review in 2011, we set out to re-orientate our services to be more Staff/student-centred, Work-based, Evidence-based, Efficient and Technology-enhanced. While this session will give some examples of the scaleable, sustainable changes that we have initiated and informed over the last five years, it will also be an opportunity for you to share your own ideas and experiences.

Whitchurch, C. (2008) Shifting identities and blurring boundaries: the emergence of third space professionals in UK higher education, Higher Education Quarterly, 62(4), 377-396.