

“Power of Play”: An Exploration of How and Why Drama-based Pedagogy (DBP) Can Be Used to Teach for Effective Learning in Psychology and Other Academic Areas

**Guest speaker: Katie Dawson, Associate Professor
The University of Texas at Austin**



Abstract: Katie Dawson, Associate Professor and Head of the graduate program in Drama and Theatre for Youth Communities at The University of Texas at Austin, is a renowned scholar-practitioner in the fields of Teacher Education, Pedagogy, and Curriculum Theory, with a particular focus on Drama-Based Pedagogy (DBP). Katie’s many publications, include her popular book *Drama-Based Pedagogy: Activity Learning Across the Curriculum* which introduces and theorizes a set of interactive drama strategies that can be used to improve the quality of student engagement through dialogic meaning-making across all areas of the curriculum, including Psychology L&T in higher education. With Katie’s generous endorsement as a consultant, three departmental and one faculty teaching development projects on virtual DBP approach to Psychology L&T had been successfully conducted at The Educational University of Hong Kong since 2019. Our research explores how drama might help students better understand psychological theories and their applications in daily contexts. Techniques such as Hot-seating and Forum Theatre are used to promote actor-spectator interactions through debates, co-acting, and self-reflections during and after a drama performance. These interactive methods proved effective for enhancing Psychology L&T via the VDBP approach. During this 90-minute seminar, Katie Dawson will introduce key elements of Drama-Based Pedagogy (DBP) and offer case study examples of how DBP has been used to explore the “power of play” in K-12 and University education to scaffold instruction, to increase teacher self-efficacy, and to improve academic outcomes for students. We will also offer key insights from our local project team’s journey in the DBP initiative and discuss future possibilities for DBP at teaching tool at The Education University of Hong Kong.

Time: July 12 (Fri) 3pm to 5pm

Venue: B3-LP-05

[Register here](#)



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