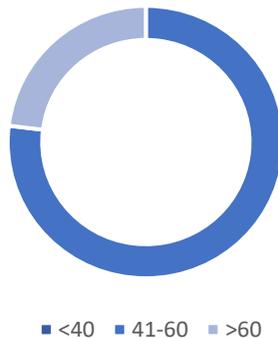


LEARNING LIVES SURVEY FEEDBACK, JW March 2021

Participants (Qs 11 & 12)

- Small sample: 13 = c. $\frac{1}{3}$ active group
- Self-selected, biased:

Age of respondents



Gender



QUESTION 1

What were your motivations for wanting to take part in the Learning Lives Inquiry?

- **Make connections:** 'To connect with other participants from around the globe and learn from them'
- **To collaborate on inquiry:** 'To inquire with enthusiasts of learning online'
- **Nature of the inquiry:** 'am very drawn to arts based, autoethnographic and reflective narratives'
- **To share common passion:** 'To be part of a community of people who are interested in Lifewide Learning'
- **For self-esteem:** 'To prove to myself that I am still learning'
- **Belief in lifewide learning:** '...life wide learning makes such sense to me because it's the way I see life and education : endless opportunities to grow'
- **Opportunity to reflect on pandemic:** 'Reflecting on my experience of the past months and years while living quite differently from before the pandemic and lockdowns'
- **Previous collaboration with Lifewide:** 'I had published in Lifewide magazine'

QUESTION 2

Did you understand what the inquiry was trying to accomplish from the information we provided in advance? (Guidance, Background Paper, project webpage and introductory meeting). How might we improve such information in future?

No: 0

Unqualified yes: 8

'It was appealing and clear step by step described'

'I felt informed and ready, even though I did not attend the introductory meeting'

Qualified yes: 4

'I struggled at times to understand the thinking'

'Yes on the whole I did, although I think at times I became a bit overly concerned about matching my initial mindmap to my vignettes'

'At first, I was not quite clear about the intent of the project'

No recommendations

QUESTION 3

Did the LinkedIn space provide you with the security, encouragement and tools you needed to express yourself? Please comment on how successful the space was to supporting our inquiry.

Yes: 'I felt safe to actively participate'

'I trusted that it was a private space (I could see it was)'

Why? 'Comments from others was encouraging and it was great to read other people's posts'

'I felt that my tentative thoughts were valued'

Yes but: 'at some point I started feeling vulnerable

'I was certainly aware that my writing, while on a secure LinkedIn page, was out there'

Specifics: 'I was anxious about my first post but the feedback and insights I received gave me confidence'

'because of my eye sight problem I did find it difficult to read some of the graphical inputs'

'How might the community be encouraged to manage any conflict or difficulties that might emerge? Would you rely on members' prior experience of online discussion?'

QUESTION 4

To what extent did the requirement to produce a weekly vignette encourage or inhibit your exploration of your own learning life? Are there ways in which this reflective tool-based approach can be improved?

The main issue seems to have been TIME e.g.

- I think each week became a strain after a while.
- It did feel like a race at some points in the 5 weeks.
- The time commitment was greater than I had anticipated

Suggestions, e.g.

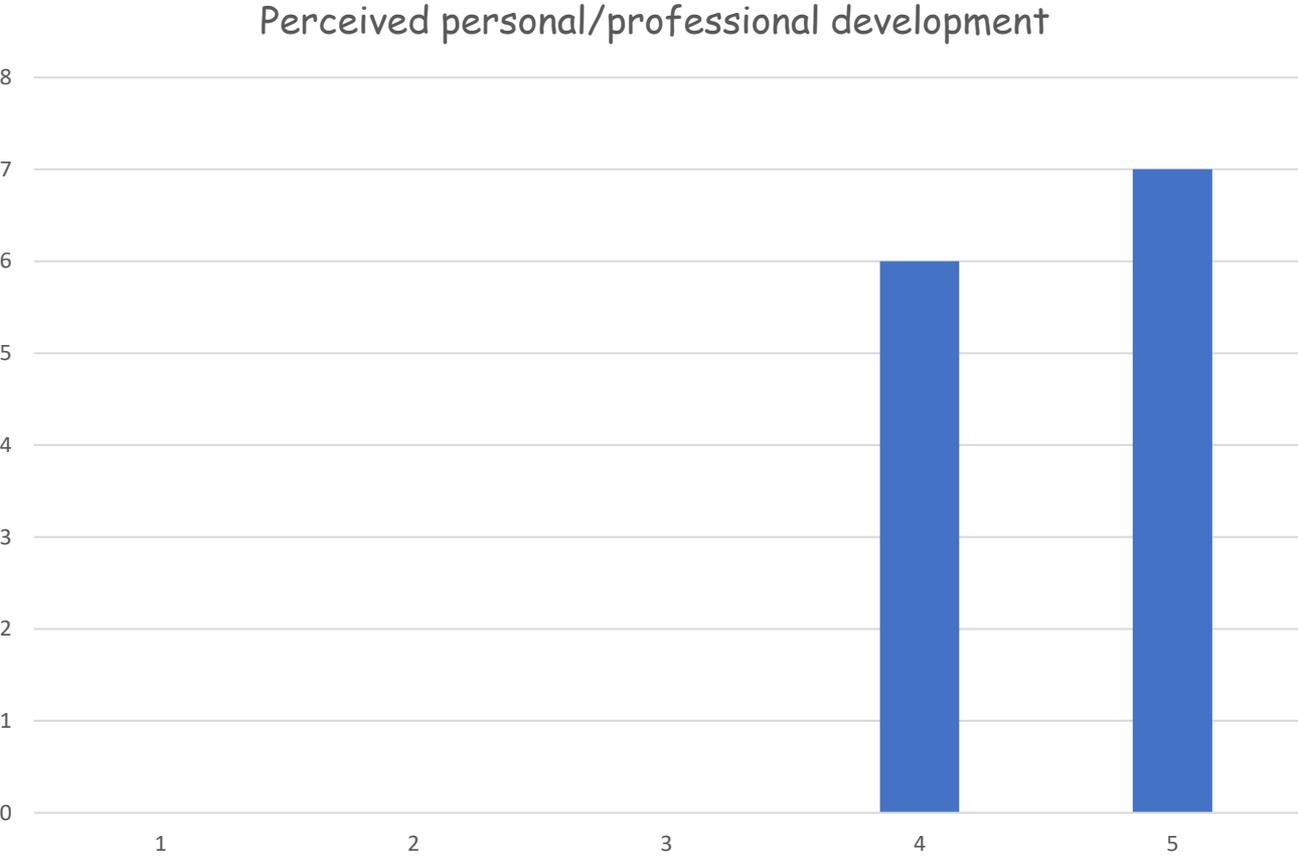
- Perhaps a note in the guidance about probable time commitment for the exercise would be helpful for contributors who are planning to be involved.
- Maybe there could be 3 vignettes in total? Would perhaps be more manageable? And additional ones for those who have more time? One at the beginning, middle and end?

Another issue, the STRUCTURE e.g.

- I work instinctively, feeling my way with the process itself. I found this format hard to keep with, I wonder if it's model borrowed from the social sciences
- Use more images

QUESTION 10

Please rate your experience in terms of the contribution it has made to your own personal or professional development



QUESTION 5

How useful or valuable has the whole experience of the inquiry been to you personally or professionally? In what ways has it been valuable or useful?

Explaining Question 10

I found the experience personally rewarding and exciting, but also demanding (at moments)...

Why/how has it been valuable?

- **Community:**

I liked the fact it was a community of people who were sharing their personal thoughts and had the space to do this.

- **Relevance to work/interests**

it has also been very useful as such a project is very well connected to aspects of my practice and interests

- **Personal development/self-discovery**

I feel it has increased my confidence in my writing and although retired I am still involved in my former professional life although unpaid

An unexpected outcome for me was finding out how much I enjoyed the writing process

QUESTION 6

Have our attempts to curate the information for participants met your expectations? What other forms of curation would have been helpful?

Liked

- The facilitation team was creating a culture and environment. It had a professional atmosphere
- Every person mattered. Every contribution mattered
- I like the gentle nudges to participate

Suggestions

- I found the quantity of information difficult to quickly digest as a concept map. Perhaps a link to an external concept mapping resource that can be enlarged and moved by a viewer would be useful.
- I find diagrams and charts often need verbal explanation to help me to find their meaning. Might short videos/narrated Powerpoint presentations etc. be created to help interpretation and understanding

QUESTION 7

This is the first inquiry we have conducted of this type and we welcome your suggestions for how we might improve any aspect of it (e.g. structure, process, facilitation, culture, curation)?

TIME: contrasting views

- I think the 6 week timescale was really really good. Accessible

ACCESS

- It'd be nice if the posts could be stored by week and with the most recent first
- Wondering if a smaller group of participants would have allowed me to pay more attention to each post

MANAGEABILITY

- Perhaps organising sub-groups of the whole community might be trialled?
- Wondering if a buddy system could work for some?

FAIRNESS & WORKLOAD

- Ask that everyone who contributes comments on others' vignettes

TECHNOLOGY

- I sometimes found posting the vignette on LinkedIn a bit difficult

QUESTION 8

Is there value in sustaining the Lifewide Learning Research and Development Group? The same ground rules would apply to any new people who expressed an interest in joining the group.

- Yes, but I'm not sure how you would maintain the connections that, for me, are only just beginning to form
- Perhaps as a standing group to which calls for participation might be sent/offered? Different inquiries might attract different people
- I would be unhappy about people remaining in the group and merely being onlookers rather than participants
- Maybe some future focused activities, shorter in length to develop something together? Hard for people working full-time...
- I believe it may grow as it is such a personal professional crossover subject
- I think we have lots more to learn from each other.

QUESTION 9

Would you like to join us in producing an article for the June issue of Lifewide Magazine on any aspect of lifewide learning that we have explored?

Thank you to all who have expressed interest. As of now, we have:

Cathy Hodgson, *learning and identity*

Eleanor Pierre, *learning through reminiscing*

Josefina Ramirez, *exploring the term 'lifewide' learning*

Ellen Shobrook, *TBC*

Victoria Wright, *ecosystem for lifewide learning*

If you have another idea or reflection on the whole process, please email: jjenny@blueyonder.co.uk

QUESTION 13

Why are you interested in lifewide learning?

THEME

- I'm interested in the notion of creativity as lifewide
- I am interested in Role Theory and how we move and adapt
- Lifewide learning really reflects my learning.
- It is a concept I had not entertained previous to joining
- I see it as absolutely signposting how interconnected all of our learning experiences are

PROCESS

- I enjoying working with active, enthusiastic learners
- I am interested in learning when qualifications and employability are not relevant

OBJECTIVE

- To enrich my life and the lives of others

QUESTION 14

Please add any further comments you wish to make about any aspect of your experience.

- I wish I had more space to think and contribute. While the current phase of this experience has ended a new one may begin if I produce an article
- Thank you for this opportunity
- One of the best things I have done !
- Thank you for your interest, effort and support
- I think this group has reminded me that I am a collaborative learner. It has also made me realise how much I have forgotten. I think my brain has become a bit sluggish!
- Thank you for this opportunity
- It was wonderful
- An experience I will never forget that came just at the right time in my life



Virtual World Presenting talks, giving guest lectures, trying to learn how to travel and present on Zoom

Family & Home Learning to cope with mum who has dementia, without being able to visit. Trying to stimulate via the mobile phone

Stories of (displaced) refugees who escaped Nazi persecution

Missing my boys and their families

Unpaid work
Article in preparation—
"Generation X/Boomers & their relationships with historical refugees via the internet". Started in April 2020. Revisiting articles

Finishing knitting a sweater & wearing it

On the other hand, this sweater is never going to be finished

Working, writing, reading, going for my master PhD, but still in doing exercises & getting work



THANK YOU ALL!