

LIFEWIDE LEARNING LEARNING LIVES INQUIRY FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

Q1 What were your motivations for wanting to take part in the Learning Lives Inquiry?

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

Learning never stops. Having the opportunity to stop and reflect deepens knowledge and allows questioning which opens new visions.

One of the reasons I joined Learning Lives Inquiry was to connect with professionals in my field, and this research, due to its participatory nature, aroused my interest in attending.

I have been following the group since the beginning and this opportunity to participate came at a time when I had a window of time to devote to the enterprise.

To have opportunity to reflect and connect.

Opportunity to connect with people across the world in a coordinated and meaningful manner.

I usually deliver physical active workshops and produced resources. I was motivated to have the opportunity to inquire with enthusiasm of learning online. I appreciate that you created a space for this I am keen to co-create with groups

To be part of a community of people who are interested in Lifewide Learning. To create some motivation for myself to focus on reflection.

The idea of sharing what learning is with a broad group of people involved in education was really appealing. Once you join a group in an area, you know people there share a passion (education and learning), so you will certainly find such deep insights! The subject of lifewide learning makes such sense to me because it's the way I see life and education: endless opportunities to grow

To join a worldwide learning community, to share views and reflections to understand more about the research project and be part of a research community and learn more about this fascinating area.

Reconnecting with a community. Engaging in something interesting. Sharing thinking. Reflecting on my experience of the past months and years while living quite differently from before the pandemic and lockdowns.

To prove to myself that I am still learning. I felt that I lost my confidence in my learning and was merely sliding into middle age. This was exacerbated by problems in one eye which has severely impacted on my reading and writing.

Curiosity

to support Norman and the team. To connect with others, share and learn

To practice writing.

I had published in Lifewide magazine and wanted to return (have been starting to return) to writing around and engaging in discussions on ecologies for learning. I was also interested in the scope of the activity and am very drawn to arts based, autoethnographic and reflective narratives.

To find out more about learning lives and lifewide learning . To connect with Norman Jackson, Jenny and Rob. To connect with other participants from around the globe and learn from them.

+ Add comment

Q2 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?

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

Yes.

The guides you gave us at the beginning of the project were able to tell us the purpose of this research very well, and I knew from the beginning what we were going to do during these six weeks. In my opinion, these guides were able to draw these six weeks well. The audience needs to know whether they can afford to participate in this inquiry or not, and I was able to convince myself that I was able to participate in this inquiry when I read the guide.

Very clear instructions, easy to understand and the examples cleared up my minor questions.

The information provided made the goals very clear.

Yes, I understood the first 4-5 weeks writing vignettes. I'm keen to work but with the start of teaching and an extra class I need to read the follow up activity announcement this weekend.

I really liked the idea of it, I struggled at times to understand the thinking. I have some knowledge about reflective practice and was enthused by the process. Generating self-reflection was harder This project provided the opportunities to reflect and to generate rich understandings.

It was all very clear to me. The ongoing feedback to all and other interactions with posts helped to keep me focused on exploring how domains are interrelated.

It was appealing and clear step by step described

Yes very clear and concise

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

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.And sometimes I wondered if I was linking my learning to particular domains. Then I began to wonder if it mattered so much.

Yes

very clear

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

Yes definitely.

Yes it was very clear

+ Add comment

We tried to encourage a respectful and appreciative culture in the LinkedIn space.

Q3 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.

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

All good and I found the group to be very supportive.

Easy access to this space and the absence of distractions was some of the advantages of this space. It also provided the opportunity to comment on other people's vignettes as well as respond to other people's comments, and since speaking English fluently was a bit challenging for me as a non-English speaker, I think LinkedIn's writing space was good.

This felt like a safe space where I could share wholeheartedly.

The space was safe and encouraging.

I was certainly aware that my writing, while on a secure LinkedIn page, was out there and therefore open. I rarely use social media and did enjoy writing for this space. Comments from others was encouraging and it was great to read other people's posts.

I felt safe to actively participate. It was a useful space for information gathering. I've used Instagram more as it's the instantaneity of sharing photos via social media and can encouraged a more playful approach.

Yes. I did find this a useful space. Much better for example than a similar WhatsApp group that I'm part of. I think the private group space within LinkedIn is very agile and responsive - although admittedly I am not really aware of other facilities to accommodate such integration.

It was easy and felt private enough

I have the LinkedIn space extremely encouraging and appreciated the time that everyone spent especially the facilitation team in responding to the vignettes that myself and others posted. I learnt a great deal from the comments and this helped me have the confidence to continue to post regularly.

I very much appreciated the interest and support shown in comments on my posts and posts from others, especially at the start of the exercise. I felt that my tentative thoughts were valued. I detected warmth and encouragement and also tried to offer these to others. I was delighted to be part of a welcoming and generous group. I appreciate that there were key members of the group who took pains to comment and model/set the tone of the discussions. I wonder how negativity might have been managed. I suppose there were some broad groundrules for the exercise. 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?

Yes I thought everyone was very respectful and encouraging. I tried to comment on others' vignettes as I realised how much I appreciated feedback on mine. But because of my eye sight problem I did find it difficult to read some of the graphical inputs and so I did not comment on as many as I wanted to.

Yes

As mentioned privately to Norman already, at some point I started feeling vulnerable. I know nobody asked anybody to share anything you feel uncomfortable of sharing but in such spaces it often happens that people open up and then feel exposed.

Felt it was relatively safe

It did. I hadn't used LinkedIn before and only joined so as to be part of the project but I trusted that it was a private space (I could see it was) and I could see how other people were interacting in it.

Yes I felt very encouraged and supported . I was anxious about my first post but the feedback and insights I received gave my confidence. I tried to do the same with other people's posts.

+ Add comment

Q4 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?

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

It was a great addition to my time table. I made adjustments and found a space for it on Sundays which is my day of reflection.

The weekly submission of these vignettes was good in that it allowed me to work regularly for six weeks, and this order helped me to reflect on my learning on a weekly and sometimes daily basis, providing a space for me to reflect on my own life.

What happened to me during the first readings was a flood of connections to other thoughts and ideas from the past. I found myself going back to text and readings from the past to revisit the information and make new connections.

The weekly goal of writing a vignette facilitated my reflective practice.

I keep a daily journal with a focus of things that were enjoyed/appreciated and areas for development. My notes in these sections are usually dot points. Writing about one or two learning points in more detail encourage greater depth for my thinking.

As a Fine Artist my method is an intuitive process, redefining ideas, insights and my practice itself, sometimes generating in the process a clash or jarring of elements within the work. My general approach to the making of images is to 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. I'm going through a difficult restructure and struggled with time so I can't really criticise the tool because I could have reinvented it slightly within the framework that was offered.

This hugely impacted on my attention to reflecting on what I was experiencing each week. Knowing that I would have to write and share provided some momentum.

Deadlines are always threatening (specs illy if you volunteer to accomplish them But it was also a push to look at life opportunities intently In my case, I was on holiday and that made it a challenge , but also gave me the time I needed y To deliver the vignettes

I found this a motivating factor that I felt compelled to do each week and spent the week considering what I wanted to write . The learning community contributions sparked ideas in my thoughts and helped me to write. The vignettes and domains gave people the freedom to express themselves in a way that was appropriate to them.

The weekly requirement was helpful, though I did find it difficult to keep up with reading what others had posted, and make time for my own thinking and writing. It did feel like a race at some points in the 5 weeks. The time commitment was greater than I had anticipated. The weekly requirement did serve to give me a very clear focus on my learning throughout the weeks. The suggested minimal headings and word count for submissions were very helpful. I feel that a short timescale/number of vignettes is more sustainable than a longer period. Perhaps a note in the guidance about probable time commitment for the exercise would be helpful for contributors who are planning to be involved.

Initially I panicked, particularly when the first one was due. But It did not take a long time . However I do appreciate I am retired if I was still working I think I would have regarded it as 'yet another task' to be completed.

I think each week became a strain after a while.

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? Many of us used images. WOndering if the visual could be used more? Start with sharing a picture that reveals something about how you see learning? Or something like this? Speaking about a picture/object/model may be seen as less threatening to people? Maybe?

This is a double pronged question. Would have preferred separately. 1. The requirement to produce weekly was an excellent structure. 2. I think the openness of it is what attracted me. It was not overly structured. It felt safe to experiment.

It encouraged the exploration of my own learning as it made explicit some of the connections between my informal and my formal learning (or enactment of that learning in my domains).

Encouraged me and it was a useful reflective tool that I want to continue

[+ Add comment](#)

Q5 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?

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

Writing makes me reflect and thinking who I am addressing the piece work on my mental agility and creativity.

I think it helped me identify valuable resources for my learning and always pay attention to and reflect on them. As for the impact on my professional life, I realized that my job is one of the most valuable resources for my learning and I always look forward to learning that happens informally and I have no plans for it.

The value came from using my voice to clearly produce the vignettes rather than the academic language voice that is required in most of my writing. This space between authentic language that connects learning and emotion is important as I travel the academic landscape where voice is encouraged if it meets the criteria of the journal.

The inquiry has shown me that I enjoy the reflective writing process. It has been valuable and comforting to read different insights from different perspectives, from different lived experiences.

It's certainly been a valuable experience. Being encouraged to think by people's posting was great. The value of participating in this group will continue. I have been motivated through contributing and believe this has driven me professionally. If I take the initiative and connect with members via LinkedIn then professionally the value of engaging will be further enhanced.

This was a great space for dialogue and story-telling based on people's experiences, I began to create visual images for reflection and discussion with group members.

An unexpected outcome for me was finding out how much I enjoyed the writing process - I lack confidence with writing in this way but the safe space gave me permission to have a go. The feedback within the group to my posts was really wonderful. I wish I had more time to better engage with more participants - I feel like there is so much more that I could learn from the other vignettes. Overall - taking part in this has made me aware of how much my work domain dominates my 'life'. I am trying to understand whether this is a useful thing or whether I need to address it. Some of the other domains have been so squashed by covid - I wonder if I have let my work become somewhat 'commander and chief'. Professionally - developing my writing has been very useful. I have learnt a lot of other vignettes too and the feedback helped me to develop my thinking in case.

It was valuable to have a group to reflect with. Valuable to get in touch in such deep ways with people you don't know, but that you get to know through their life experience and deep reflection. A subject that is a common passion provides the group with a sense of familiarity and trust.

This experience has increased my confidence considerably in writing and expressing myself. It has helped me to take a step back and reflect and look for patterns and themes and helped me make decisions about the next steps in my life such as moving house. Writing it down was hard but I was then able to make a decision and our house is on the market now. It also helped me to see how all the domains are intertwined and there is the opportunity to learn from every aspect of them.

It has been a pleasure to be involved in the inquiry. I found the experience personally rewarding and exciting, but also demanding (at moments)..

It has been so valuable, and I will miss it when it stops. I have learnt so much about others' learning lives. I have loved seeing others' inputs and feel I am once again in a community of learners. I feel it has increased my confidence in my writing and although retired I am still involved in my former professional life although unpaid. Being involved in this project has been so valuable and useful. I think the main thing I have gained is feedback. I realise how much I miss feedback from colleagues.

Really interesting, the unexplored life as they say.

It really helped me see how interconnected everything I do is. I was aware of this before but it is crystal clear now. Will be useful to keep this in mind when working with academics on their CPD and what we see as CPD... not sure CPD as a term actually works... do we need

this to be replaced with another one? I know some say professional learning...is it lifewide and lifelong learning? Norman talks about lifelong-lifewide learning, I remember reading this recently.

This experience allowed me to look at my personal and professional lives together to see the intermixing of both and appreciate both. It was valuable in validating some choices and it felt good.

very valuable both personally and professionally. On a personal note it has been a real privilege to see other people's vignettes and vicariously experience some of their learning. It has also seen some relaxed informal connections (people liking or commenting and having therefore a little social interaction). Professionally it has also been very useful as such a project is very well connected to aspects of my practice and interests - to things that I do such as run reflective practice sessions for my team, our partnership and their students.

Valuable is a life affirming way and taught me so much about terms and types of learning . I have found it an enriching experience. I liked the fact it was a community of people who were sharing their personal thoughts and had the space to do this.

+ Add comment

The facilitation team has tried to curate the knowledge developed through the inquiry and make it available to participants via the 'Learning Lives Knowledge' web page which is exclusive to the group. Q6 Have our attempts to curate the information for participants met your expectations? What other forms of curation would have been helpful?

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

I found curation wonderful. As an artist I would use different illustrations but I don't have your experience so I might sound cheeky!!! :)

I believe that the idea of sharing the knowledge developed through research was great for the participants.

Overall, your management style seemed appropriate and encouraging. I didn't really notice any "to much information" moments where you shut down the conversation as you seemed to appreciate the honest nature of the responses.

Curation has been useful.

This was interesting but 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 can see how the facilitation team was creating a culture and environment. It had a professional atmosphere

This has been great. I like the gentle nudges to participate.

It seemed a lot of "macro view" and hard work to put together all the information, in a way that made sense , and I sincerely can't think of a better way than what the team did

I really like the themes map and like the visual nature of them .

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 This is would be more work, but it would enhance accessibility. I am interested to know more about why we seem to engage in lifewide learning on a daily basis, but we might not consciously attend to it or value it. Are there clues about this contrast emerging from this inquiry?

Yes I found the curation format a great idea. I have problems seeing it but that is just because of the eye sight issue. I did increase the size but I still have problems reading on the computer.

I think I missed this.

The team worked really hard and was present. This is important I feel and you acknowledged contributions and were very supportive and positive. This boosted motivation, I suspect. Every person mattered. Every contribution mattered. weekly summary posts of themes that came up where shared I think. The ones that looked like mindmaps... These were useful.

Good so far

Definitely. I've liked seeing the maps appearing.

I think the attempts have been excellent. I particularly like the visual nature of them

[+ Add comment](#)

Q7 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)?

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

Why not do more and then for a longer period. I missed not reflecting in this format for longer.

I saw the whole participation process well and a very friendly and safe atmosphere was provided for me.

I can't wait to see how it comes together.

I like the structure, but also the freedom to express in different and creative ways - I would maintain this.

I was only made aware of this inquiry after the first online meeting. Consequently, I felt a little like I was always catching up and with other commitments not able to engage with reading and commenting on posts to the extent that I would have liked. It'd be nice if the posts could be stored by week and with the most recent first. There were a couple of times when I read a post, went away and thought, but couldn't easily find it again to write a comment.

I was impressed by this inquiry even though I personally found it difficult to keep up It was an engaging initiatives, it felt supportive and there was a drive for embedding new practice

I think the 6 week timescale was really really good. Accessible. I'm not sure to be honest I can suggest improvements - my regret is not making time to further engage with more vignettes. I'd like to do this again! Maybe a breather...and then round 2?

Just the idea ok conituning periodically

I think it has worked perfectly , just sometimes took a few attempts to post it on LinkedIn but that is due to LinkedIn not the group

I am torn between knowing that seeing the range and richness of all contributions was invaluable, and wondering if a smaller group of participants would have allowed me to pay more attention to each post. I feel a little guilty that I paid less attention to some posts. I had to manage my feelings of almost being overwhelmed at times. Perhaps organising sub-groups of the whole community might be trialled? The groups need not have a fixed membership for the whole exercise.

My only suggestion is to ask that everyone who contributes comments on others' vignettes. I do not believe that there should be a statutory number. I just think receiving feedback is so important. It would also take some of the strain of the facilitators as I did appreciate that you took the time to make comments on every vignette.

None.

Wondering if a buddy system could work for some? Could this be encouraged? Also sharing in small groups or with just a few others?

Thank you.

I think this is always going to be experimental and evolving, depending as it does so much on the engagement of the participants.

I found it a straightforward process. I sometimes found posting the vignette on LinkedIn a bit difficult

+ Add comment

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE Q8 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.

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

Yes.

I think research into lifelong learning and the way people learn helps people reflect on that learning and try to improve the domains where the most valuable learning occurs. Yes, I think a week was a good time to reflect on and appreciate the learning that took place during the week.

I have learned so much from the group and I can imagine sustaining the conversation with new members. For me, time is any issue. What was great about the process was the wire frame for the entire process.

I think so.

Yes, but I'm not sure how you would maintain the connections that, for me, are only just beginning to form.

I thought it was a good design to help us think about our own learning, there seems to be many values and approaches which cross academic boundaries.

Yes

I believe it may grow as it is such a personal professional crossover subject

Yes definitely

I'm sure there is value in sustaining the Group, perhaps as a standing group to which calls for participation might be sent/offered? Different inquiries might attract different people, depending on the focus and their busyness.

Yes I think so , I will miss reading about others' lives. I Think it would be useful to have a little direction in that people in the groupo need to submit vignettes . Not that there needs to be a stipulation for a required number but I would be unhappy about people remaining in the group and merely being onlookers rather than participants.

Yes.

I suspect it will be difficult. Maybe some future focused activities, shorter in length to develop something together? Hard for people working full-time...

Think so

I would hope so. I think it has given some of us, certainly me, a safe space to share and to learn. I think we have lots more to learn from each other.

Yes I would love to continue to be part of this group

+ Add comment

Q9 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? We have prepared a Guide to explain our approach. It can be found on the Learning Lives Knowledge web page <https://www.lifewideeducation.uk/learninglivesknowledge.html> If you would like to contribute please contact Jenny Willis jjenny@blueyonder.co.uk to register your interest

Number of responses: 15

Text answers:

I am thinking about it.....

I would like to participate in this research. I will read the guides and if I find out that my abilities are acceptable to the point of producing the article you are looking for; I will contact Jenny Willis jjenny@blueyonder.co.uk to register my interest.

Will do and thanks!

Yes

Yes, I'm interested and will contact Jenny.

I am interested but will need to look back to understand more about the lifewide approach yes please. will do

Thanks !

I have contacted Jenny to register my interest.

I am in discussion with Rob about this.
I will look at the guide and then decide.
Probably, I might do something with Chrissi
Ronnie and Chrissi will be writing something together and we hope this is ok.
Will do
registered interest.

+ Add comment

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

Number of responses: 16

12345
0246810
Times Chosen
0 (0%)
0 (0%)
0 (0%)
6 (37.50%)
10 (62.50%)

+ Add comment

11. How old are you?

Number of responses: 16

under 2020-40 years old41-60 years oldover 60Prefer not to say
024681012
Times Chosen
0 (0%)
1 (6.25%)
11 (68.75%)
4 (25%)
0 (0%)

+ Add comment

12. What is your gender?

Number of responses: 16

malefemalenon-binaryprefer not to say
0246810121416
Times Chosen
2 (12.50%)
14 (87.50%)
0 (0%)
0 (0%)

+ Add comment

13. Why are you interested in lifelong learning?

Number of responses: 16

Text answers:

Learning is wide and tall it reaches far and wide. Celebrating learning is essential to our wellbeing and I love to try it and share it.

I am interested in studying the role of liminal spaces in people's learning and finding ways to help learners to cope with the stress and confusion of this space and always be ready to enter liminal spaces and appreciate the changes that result from their placement in this space.

I am still learning and do everyday - it comes with being curious and wanting to learning new things.

To unravel and explore the complexities of learning in different contexts.

I've always been aware that every awake moment is a moment of learning. Deliberately engaging in this space with others of the same interest has been a wonderful opportunity.

I'm interested in the notion of creativity as lifewide. I enjoying working with active, enthusiastic learners

I am interested in Role Theory and how we move and adapt to behave according to context/situation. I learn alot from my interactions in complex spaces. I have always been an advocate of life-long learning, so was drawn to the 'next level'!!

It makes sense , as I am always involved in several areas and have always rejected to just stay in one area of learning

To enhance my own learning to see where it takes place , to learn more about the academic terms and be part of this community

I am interested in learning that has not traditionally been, and is not fully captured through accreditation. I am interested in learning when qualifications and employability are not relevant.

My background is adult education.I have been involved in adult education for all of my working life. I commenced working in community education, then youth training schemes, followed by local collaborative programmes, then further education followed by higher education. Lifewide learning really reflects my learning.

I teach part time in a business school, have a small learning design business and I am chief learning officer for training and consulting firm.

I love learning, learning is life

It is a concept I had not entertained previous to joining

I'm very used to talking about lifelong learning. I like the word 'lifewide' in addition. I see it as absolutely signposting how interconnected all of our learning experiences are.

To enrich my life and the lives of others

+ Add comment

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

Number of responses: 11

Text answers:

One good aspect of this experience was connecting with other people on LinkedIn and adding them to my network. This was my first experience with a research group, and since I am trying to study abroad, it motivated me to focus more on achieving my goals and meeting good, professional people.

Deeply grateful for the opportunity!

The inquiry has been a positive experience, generating a sense of acceptance and hope in the future.

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 a the right time in my life