

Quality Advancement

Quality Forum

Teaching Challenging Topics

Our students sometimes are challenged and confronted by the topics we teach, not because they are academically difficult, but because they raise sensitive issues that might be upsetting, disturbing or distressing. What we teach might remind them of upsetting incidents from their past (eg abortion, adoption or sexual violence), or it might confront their ethical or religious concerns (eg dissection), or even confront a deeply held assumption or prejudice (eg indigenous approaches to the Law or Planning). Sometimes we know our topics are likely to be confronting for some of our students and we can prepare for this, but often we cannot predict when a topic might be challenging, and so we also have to have a plan to deal with unexpected upsets.

Join us for this Quality Forum to hear the panel share their strategies for teaching challenging topics, and then join the panel for further discussion.

- How can we plan for our teaching when we know we might be including challenging topics?
- How can we teach challenging topics so we support students who might be upset?
- How can we maximise learning despite, or perhaps because of, the challenging nature of what we teach?
- What do we do when we have students who are unexpectedly upset?

Tuesday 21 August 2018
3:30-5:00pm

St Margaret's College, Valentine Room

Tea and coffee will be served after the presentation, and those attending will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel.

RSVP (for catering) to Jacqueline Fraser
jacqueline.fraser@otago.ac.nz

The Forum will be available via livestream for our other campuses at:

otago.ac.nz/its/services/teaching/streaming/otago469601.html

If you are viewing by livestream and have specific topics or questions you would like addressed, please email them in advance to Jacqueline at the address below, and they will be given to the Panel.

Convenor:

Associate Professor Clinton Golding,
Deputy HOD, Higher Education Development Centre

Panel:

Dr Melanie Beres, Sociology Gender and Social Work and academic leader of Te Whare Tāwharau, Sexual violence support and prevention centre (sexual violence)

Associate Professor Rachel Zajac, Psychology and National teaching award winner 2016 (criminal investigation, violent crime)

Professor John Reynolds, Anatomy and National teaching award winner 2008 (brain removal)

Professor Michelle Thomson-Fawcett, Geography and Otago teaching award winner 2017 (indigenous approaches to planning and environmental management)



QA

QUALITY ADVANCEMENT