

# student as producer

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## Session 3.1b

### The student as 'Sport Development Practitioner' – Is there such a thing?

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#### Abstract

For a number of years student participation in community sport development projects has mainly been defined by volunteering and project support. Whilst this develops certain aspects of student continual professional development there are limits to the degree that it develops all aspects of employability and fully contributes to the wider demands of industry.

Addressing this issue, the BA Hons Sport Coaching and Development degree at Southampton Solent University has pioneered The Coaching Innovation Programme whereby students are required to engage with industry practitioners, address the needs of a community and deliver their own Coaching Innovation Project (CIP). This innovative approach to employability places significant focus on the 'student as practitioner' whereby responsibility lies with them from project conceptualisation through to delivery and monitoring and evaluation. This requires them to engage comprehensively with key partners, addressing industry niches and contributing strategically to the wider community context.

To distinguish this even further, academics within the course team are engaging the students as case studies for their own individual research and enterprise goals. This innovative approach to the student as practitioner supported by empirical research of its impact represents a coordinated approach to the employability agenda in H.E. This presentation seeks to focus specifically on the mechanics of the CIP, the challenges faced in making it fit for purpose and the research that underpins it. Clearly such a presentation embraces a number of the key themes of the conference, in particular 'curriculum design to embed discovery-led, research-based approaches to learning', 'Enhancing student engagement through meaningful participation in quality processes' and specifically 'students as producers of the world they will live in'.

#### Presenter details