

PAMELA COWAN



Queen's University Belfast – School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work

INSTITUTIONAL ROLES

Senior Lecturer (Education);
Programme Co-ordinator for PGCE ICT/Computing;
Masters Module Convenor for E-learning: Concepts and Practice;
Disability Adviser for PG students.

MAIN RESEARCH INTERESTS

In general my research interests encompass all aspects of using modern information technologies in educational contexts including geography, assessment in education, structural equations modelling and issues in mathematics and computing education. I am particularly interested in the use of computer adaptive testing in schools and in the assessment of higher order thinking skills, such as writing code and mathematical problem-solving using computer-based techniques. I am also interested in assessment issues in higher education including e-portfolios and have been involved in evaluation projects as an external consultant. More recent work has involved handheld devices for mobile learning, multimodal literacies, pedagogically effective games and simulations, computational thinking, the pedagogy of virtual reality for schools, MinecraftEdu, robotics to teach programming, Educational escape Rooms and CoderDojos.

I have presented my work at numerous international conferences in Europe and the USA. I am currently encouraging my doctoral students to disseminate their work more widely too!

ACADEMIC CAREER

Appointed in 1997, I was the PGCE Course Director across all PGCE programmes from 2013 - 2017 and have been the Programme Co-ordinator for ICT/Computing since 2000. I contribute to the Education and Professional Studies module through workshops in ICT/e-learning tools used in schools, inviting external organisations such as iTeach (for iPad training), PSNI (for digital safeguarding) and NI Screen/INTO Film (for Digital Safeguarding). I also hold twilight courses in MinecraftEdu and short training sessions on course creation in Fronter, Google Classrooms/Sites, Bitmoji Classrooms, and OneNote Class.