

Living Educational Theory and the Postgraduate Journey
An Evening Forum with [Professor Jack Whitehead](#)

Room(s): BY 1147 Seminar
Date(s): Wednesday 30 Sep 2026
Time: 16:30 - 18:00

Time	Duration	Agenda item	Lead and purpose
	10 minutes	Welcome, introductions and purpose	Chair: Seán Bracken . Welcome participants, acknowledge the earlier forum and explain that the evening is intended to move from initial engagement with Living Educational Theory towards its possible application within doctoral and wider postgraduate research. Introduce the longer-term aspiration to establish a facilitated community of practice.
	20 minutes	Opening reflection: What brings us to Living Educational Theory?	Invite brief participant responses to a question circulated in advance by Professor Jack Whitehead . The transcript suggests focusing on how participants' practice has influenced another person, a community or their own educational thinking. Keep contributions to approximately 2-3 minutes each.
	15 minutes	Living Educational Theory as a "guide rope" into doctoral research	Gerard Doyle . Introduce the framework as a means of helping researchers connect professional experience, personal values and existing funds of knowledge with research questions, methodology and knowledge creation. Address the facilitative rather than prescriptive nature of the approach. Consider how the approach can sustain doctoral-level expectations and academic robustness. Briefly address potential challenges, including the relationship between personal ontology, theoretical positioning, methodological appropriateness and the identification of contradictions within practice.
	15 minutes	Beginning the journey: a researcher's experience	Elena Lengthorn . A short account of her engagement with Living Educational Theory since the earlier session, including what has been useful, what questions have emerged and how the framework may inform her developing research thinking. This item was explicitly proposed in the planning meeting.
	20 minutes	Living Educational Theory and postgraduate research	Professor Jack Whitehead . Respond to the emerging proposal and explore how Living Educational Theory can inform doctoral or other PGR journeys. Suggested areas include values-led enquiry, the question "How can I improve my practice?", the generation of

			educational knowledge and the role of critical dialogue in maintaining scholarly rigour. The transcript envisages Professor Jack Whitehead providing intellectual challenge, enrichment, resources and connections with a wider network.
	10 minutes	Open forum: questions, dialogue and possibilities	Facilitated by Seán Bracken . Audience questions and discussion with Professor Jack Whitehead , Gerard Doyle and Elena Lengthorn . Keep the discussion focused on the practical and conceptual implications of using Living Educational Theory within doctoral or PGR study. Outline the proposed facilitated community of practice, open to those considering or already undertaking doctoral or PGR study. Explain that it is intended to complement rather than replace formal supervisory and regulatory arrangements. Invite expressions of interest and identify possible forms of future engagement.
	2 minutes	Closing reflections and thanks	One-sentence takeaway from Professor Jack Whitehead , followed by thanks and confirmation of how participants can remain connected.

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Are you considering doctoral or postgraduate research grounded in your educational values, experience and practice? Join [Professor Jack Whitehead](#) for an in-person interactive evening forum exploring Living Educational Theory as a conceptual framework for values-led enquiry.

The session, which is hosted by the Inclusion by Design Research Group will combine researcher experiences, conceptual discussion and audience dialogue, while considering how a supportive community of practice might help participants develop rigorous, personally meaningful research. The forum is open to prospective researchers, current PGR students, supervisors and research-active practitioners.

Recommended advance prompt for participants

To prepare for the participative opening, attendees are invited to briefly share reflections on:
 What educational values give meaning and purpose to my practice, and how might I investigate whether I am living those values through my work?
 How has my research or praxis influenced others in contributing to societal well-being?

If you would like attend, or to receive a recording of the event, please contact Dr Seán Bracken s.bracken@worc.ac.uk