

International perspectives on higher education: an initial examination of the key issues.

Prof. Sally Brown, Visiting Professor Edge Hill University.

Prof. Kay Sambell, Edinburgh Napier University.

International understandings of assessment in Higher Education are highly diverse, with divergence from nation to nation on what should be assessed, what aspects of students' capabilities and performance are valued and what are appropriate methodologies and approaches for assessment. With Kay Sambell of Edinburgh Napier University, I am currently exploring these issues, drawing on accounts from research contacts internationally. Although the study is not unproblematic, initial findings are enlightening and likely to have value both to those working with international students and staff in the UK, and for UK colleagues working beyond these shores. The implications of the research suggest that greater awareness of the underlying issues can avoid some misconceptions and confusions. By the end of the session participants can hope to have:

- Gained a greater awareness of practices of assessment and feedback globally;
- Recognised the complexity of designing and delivering assessment in transnational contexts;
- Identified a range of ways in which we can work better with international and home colleagues and students on assessment and feedback to enhance the student experience.