Engaging with the Educational Literature, or...

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If you don’t engage with educational literature,

- to what extent can you...
  - nurture student learning?
  - remain up-to-date in teaching your field?
  - remain excited in/by teaching?
  - contribute to educational research?
  - support colleagues’ engagement in educational research?
The researcher-teacher role

- T/R nexus operates at/has impact at/is encouraged at the level of
  - Individual
  - Department/School
  - Institution
What it isn’t...

- Excuse for poorly-considered innovation
- Collaborative learning
  - No literature review
    - Legal education
    - Education
    - Corporate training
  - Limited evaluation
    - Student resentment
    - Staff dissatisfaction
- Published disaster stories
  - 2 Australian law schools
What it might be...

- Leverage teaching/research
- Direction for
  - Individual
  - Collaborative
- Scholarly activity for law academics
- Career renewal
- Teaching-related scholarship
  - Teaching-only position
  - Teaching part of portfolio
  - Research
Eyes on the Prize

- Research process
  - Project idea
    - Methodology
      - Relationship to T&L
      - Educational literature review
        - Not just legal ed.?
  - Grant funding
  - Identify potential publications

- Audience
  - Identify target journals?
    - Quality of journal
    - Debates in journal
    - Journal requirements
    - Contact editor
Publication process

- Drafting
  - Present/circulate
  - Revise

- Submit
  - Meet journal requirements
    - Length
    - Style
    - Integrate into ongoing debate in journal

- Revise & resubmit...
Choosing publication outlets

Publication strategy

Law journals

- Australian/International
- Broad/specialist

Higher education journals

Legal education journals

- *Legal Education Review*
- *The Law Teacher*
- *Journal of Legal Education*
- *Clinical Law Review*
Legal Education Review

- Australian
  - Goes to all members of ALTA electronically
- Refereed academic journal
- 2 issues annually
- ERA ranked ‘C’
The Law Teacher

The Law Teacher: the International Journal of Legal Education

- http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/journal/
- http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rltc
- Refereed academic journal
- 3 issues annually
- Shifting from UK to international focus
  - Interest in Australia
- ERA ranked ‘C’
Journal of Legal Education

- http://www.law.georgetown.edu/jle/index.cfm
- Quarterly publication of Association of American Law Schools
- ERA ranked ‘B’
Clinical Law Review

- [http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/clinicallawreview/index.htm](http://www.law.nyu.edu/journals/clinicallawreview/index.htm)
- Association of American Law Schools/Clinical Legal Education Association/NYU
- Semi-annual
- Peer-edited
- Peer review
- Devoted to issues of lawyering theory & clinical legal education
- ERA ranked ‘A’!?
Non-refereed outputs

- **The Law Teacher**
  - US Newsletter

- United Kingdom Centre for Legal Education
  - *Directions*
    - Talk to me?
  - Teaching Resource Notes
    - Funded
  - [http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/about/publications.html](http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/about/publications.html)
United States SoTL Journals

- **International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**
  - [http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/](http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/ijsotl/)

- **MountainRise: an Electronic Journal Dedicated to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**
  - [http://mountainrise.wcu.edu/index.html](http://mountainrise.wcu.edu/index.html)

- **International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education**
  - [http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/](http://www.isetl.org/ijtlhe/)
Field of Research: 1301 EDUCATION SYSTEMS

- A*
  - Higher Education Research and Development
  - Studies in Higher Education

- A
  - Higher Education Quarterly
  - Higher Education Review
  - International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
  - Journal of Higher Education
  - Quality in Higher Education
  - Research in Higher Education
  - Teaching in Higher Education
Case Study

CL\textsuperscript{2} (or how I learned to love the nexus)

- **Israel, M, Handsley, E & Davis, G** (2004)
  - ‘It’s the Vibe’: Fostering Student Collaborative Learning in Constitutional Law in Australia.

- **Handsley, E, Davis, G & Israel, M** (2005)
  - Legal Lemonade – or, can you turn external pressures into educational advantages?

- **Aims**
  - Develop students’ group skills
  - Economise
What is CL?

- Students work together in groups
  - to produce something
  - planned & developed
  - at least partly assessed
- as collective endeavour
Literature review

- Multi-disciplinary
  - Theoretical perspectives
    - Value
- International
  - Experiences of earlier implementation in Law Schools (inc. Griffith and Murdoch)
    - Resource implications
    - Student perceptions
    - Staff experiences
Reason for reviewing literature

- Stand of shoulders of giants
- Avoid obvious traps
- Prepare students
  - Recognise & respond to anxieties
Research Methodology

- Qualitative
  - Student attitudes
    - focus groups & qs
  - Staff attitudes
    - interview & qs
  - Student knowledge
    - video presentation & assessment

- Financial review
For Students

- Pool Individual Experiences
- Developed
  - Group & Conflict Resolution Skills
  - Higher level of understanding
  - More positive view to topic
For Staff

- Enhanced student learning increased satisfaction
- Student preparation allowed facilitators to go directly to issues raised
- Relationships with students less directive
- Might save time for individual staff members but only if appropriate institutional arrangement
  - Incentive for efficiency
For University

- Managing increasing numbers
- Teaching students skills
- Establishing local resource
- Savings in costs & staff time between two budgets
School environment

- Support of Dean
- Integrated through degree curriculum
- Engagement of topic team
  - Planning
  - Implementation
  - Evaluation
  - Publication
- Money freed additional teacher-researcher
  - Literature review
  - Troubleshooting
  - Monitoring
Dissemination

- Presentations
  - Law School staff seminar, Flinders University
  - Educational Research Conference, Flinders University
  - Socio-Legal Studies Conference, UK

- Publication strategy
  - *The Law Teacher: The International Journal of Legal Education*
  - *Griffith Law Review*
  - Could have added non-refereed
    - *UKCLE?*
    - *The Law Teacher (Gonzago)?*