

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION

Final Report

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STSM type: Regular (from Portugal to United Kingdom)

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STSM Topic: Learning the future of learning: collaboration in the European space

Host: Dr. Rosie Flewitt, Institute of Education of the University College London (UCL IOE), London (UK), r.flewitt@ioe.ac.uk

ABSTRACT

During my stay in the UK it was possible to establish several contacts with researchers concerning issues related to Children, Education and Technologies, specifically issues related to the school of the future, and to have access to recent publications and books, that I don't have direct access to in Portugal. In the first week, at University College London Institute of Education (UCL IOE), I discussed the issues of my research project with Dr Rosie Flewitt, interested in the research areas of young children and multimodal literacy; Dr John Potter, also interested in studying about young children and ICT issues; and, Kate Cowan, early years teacher, Senior Teaching Fellow and final year PhD student, working under the theme of multimodal literacy and multimodal methodology, particularly issues of transcription and understanding young children's meaning making during free play. In these meetings I was able to collect a set of references of projects and methodologies, share and discuss ideas, which are very helpful for my research project. Since I am interested in studying about the school of the future, there are numerous and extremely relevant issues to take into account in my PhD project. In the second week, I traveled to Newcastle University where I could discuss with Professor Sugata Mitra the concept of the 'school in the cloud' and get a better understanding about SOLE (*Self Organized Learning Environments*) and SOME (*Self Organized Mediation Environments*) Labs. In this meeting we discussed a structural line for my investigation project.

It was a unique experience of sharing knowledge, and therefore I am very grateful to all those who helped out making it possible.

1. PURPOSE OF THE STSM

The main purpose of the Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) was to exchange knowledge with researchers and students in the areas of Education, Children and Technologies, focused in the discussion about the school of the future. It also aimed to get the highest benefit of this excellent opportunity to establish contacts and talk with people with different visions, sharing ideas and experiences, and knowing interesting innovative projects and initiatives, aiming to provide a response to the needs of the children in the 21st century, since my research focuses on learning in the school of the future.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSM

Based on the five specific goals previously drafted, I describe the work carried out:

2.1. Interview experts and researchers about future education

After previous research about experts and researchers at the UCL IOE and other universities in the UK, but especially in England, I find a very important body of work, with new perspectives to my investigation project. Then, after discussing with my hostess, Dr Rosie Flewitt, I contacted several faculty members at the UCL IOE: Professor Rose Luckin, Dr John Potter, Professor Richard Noss, Professor Manolis Mavrikis, Kate Cowan and Professor Carey Jewitt. Unfortunately I couldn't meet all personally because of the Easter holidays, but all made themselves available to talk via Skype, for me very important, and show me the extended advantages of this STSM. The travel to England also brought me another excellent opportunity, to know Professor Sugata Mitra and his project about the school in the cloud, at Newcastle University. Personally, I worked closely with Dr Rosie Flewitt, Dr John Potter, Kate Cowan and Professor Sugata Mitra discussing four main themes: personalization and adaptation of learning, innovative learning contexts, competencies for the 21st century and multimodal methodology. It was possible to collect significant empirical data that have contributed to the outline of the indicators for the school of the future. Taking into account the very short time, I couldn't realize more interviews but I achieved a lot through highly productive time spent talking about specific issues with diverse leading experts based in the UK.

2.2. Innovative educational projects and schools

It was possible to learn more about the activities and results of the projects of the academics I was in contact with. These include:

- . *Multimodal literacies in the early years*, with Dr Rosie Flewitt;
- . *MODE: Multimodal Methodologies for Digital Environments*, with Dr Rosie Flewitt and Kate Cowan;

. *ITL Research UK*, with Dr John Potter,

. *SOLE (Self Organized Learning Environments)* and *SOME (Self Organized Mediation Environments)* Labs, with Professor Sugata Mitra.

Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to visit School21 because they don't provide open visits in April and talk with children in SOLE Labs. But it is on my list, if I have another opportunity.

2.3. Know more about the work developed at the LKL (London Knowledge Lab) and their work about the exploration of the future of learning with digital technologies

This point is related to the information presented in the previous section (2.2.) and section 4, because all projects are developed in collaboration, at the LKL. At the meeting with Dr John Potter it was possible for me to get to know the range of activity developed in this Lab, including an online free access course on multimodal methodologies (<https://mode.ioe.ac.uk/training/>).

2.4. Have access to key international literature

The access to key international literature was another important topic. I had the opportunity to research and have access to recent publications and books that I don't have in Portugal. I gathered an interesting set of publications at the UCL IOE Library and The British Library.

2.5. Exchange knowledge and ideas with other researchers

The exchange of knowledge and ideas with other researchers, especially with Kate Cowan, was also important. It allowed me to align some ideas and plans according to an European perspective, of which I had no idea, previously. It was also important for my understanding of the British context. This allowed me very important reflections.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

The main results of this STSM, and very important for me, was the network of contacts that I could perform and the opening for future collaboration as key participants in my investigation project. I also collected references and methodologies that will be very useful for my PhD project. Very interesting ideas and reflections about the future of Education, Schools and Learning were made, a strong foundation for my future work.

4. FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH THE HOST INSTITUTION

These contacts bring me several opportunities for future collaboration, allowing strengthening network relations with researchers at the UCL IOE / LKL and at the Newcastle University. With Professor Sugata Mitra stayed the possibility of creating a SOLE Lab in Portugal, which we will discuss in the future. Everyone will cooperate in the focus group of my research project, which other researchers in this area will be invited to join.

Also, after the STSM, I will contact via Skype with the other professors to know more about the projects that they collaborate in and to discuss ideas about the four main themes of my focus. Projects of particular interest include:

.NEXT-TELL: *Next Generation Teaching, Education and Learning for Life*, with Professor Rose Luckin and Professor Carey Jewitt;
. SCARLET – *Scaffolding Rich Learning Experiences through Technology*, with Professor Rose Luckin;
. *Participatory design and learning contexts*, with Professor Rose Luckin;
. *MiGen: Intelligent Support for Mathematical Generalization*, with Professor Richard Noss;
. *iTalk2Learn: Talk, Tutor, Explore, Learn*, with Professor Manolis Mavrikis.

5. FORESEEN PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES RESULTING FROM THE STSM

Given the nature of the STSM conducted, no direct publications were derived from the STSM. But I seriously hope that in the near future I can develop collaboration in this sense.

6. OTHER COMMENTS

I am very grateful to COST Action IS1410 for the opportunity to collaborate closely in the European space; to my host, Dr Rosie Flewitt, for the hospitality and patience; and to all professors and researchers who received me readily and shared their projects and ideas.

7. REFERENCES

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8. CONFIRMATION BY THE HOST INSTITUTION OF THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF THE STSM

I confirm that Elisabete Barros from the Institute of Education of University of Minho, visited our laboratories and held diverse meetings with leading experts at UCL IOE from April, 4 to April, 16.

The visit was successful and the results are described in this report, which I confirm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary S. Flewitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

[*Dr Rosie Flewitt*]

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