



Using Facebook as a Teaching Tool in Higher Education: Examining Potentials and Possibilities

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This paper explores the learning journey of a university academic as she integrated the social network site Facebook into her pedagogical practice during 2011. It was trialed during both semesters in an Education unit called 'Contemporary Perspectives of Childhood'. The purpose of this research was twofold. Firstly it was undertaken to determine if students would use this social network site and secondly what possibilities existed for its use as a teaching tool. Data was sought from the Facebook page and a Qualtrics survey given to participating students. This research found that students did engage and interact with Facebook and eventually a community of learners was developed and subsequently the learning environment was enhanced. This paper discusses the advantages of the inclusion of Facebook into the tertiary arena and also addresses disadvantages indicated. Also examined are the potentials and possibilities for the use of Facebook as a tertiary teaching tool and this is further investigated.