

CMP - Learning Design SIG Research Mentorship Program for Third Space Professionals

Introduction

Starting 2025, there will also be an opportunity to join a new stream of the CMP Program - the Research Mentorship Program for Third Space Professionals in partnership with the Learning Design SIG. The ASCILITE Learning Design Special Interest Group (LD SIG) offers a mentorship and professional development program for Third Space professionals wanting to get started with research. This initiative aims to foster research skills, enhance Third Space professional visibility, and contribute to the learning design discipline. In addition to personalised monthly mentorship, the program will feature a series of expert-led online mini hourly workshops, each focused on a key area of professional research development. These mini workshops will include interactive activities to deepen participants' research understanding and skillsets.

Program objectives

- **Mentorship and guidance** – Third Space candidates will receive group mentoring from experienced Third Space individuals including leaders in ASCILITE LD SIG, who will help them translate practical experiences into scholarly contributions.
- **Research development** – participants will explore research methodologies that align with their Third Space roles, enabling them to appreciate and conduct impactful research in areas in their respective fields.
- **Peer learning and collaboration** - the program will build a collaborative network, where participants can share best practices and learn from one another's experiences, enriching the knowledge base of both the group and the learning design discipline.
- **Expert speaker series** - the program will feature five 1-hour mini expert-led workshops focused on practical, hands-on activities to enhance participant engagement and learning.
- **Dissemination and publication channels** - participants will receive guidance on submitting research to academic and Third Space conferences and journals and non-traditional channels with an emphasis on digital branding, dissemination, and the peer review process.

Expert speaker mini-workshop topic series

Topic 1: Introduction to Research for Third Space Professionals

Led by a leading academic in educational research methodologies, this session will focus on formulating research questions, selecting appropriate methodologies, and addressing unique challenges faced in the Third Space. Participants will takeaway an appreciation of the various types of research initiatives and projects available.

Topic 2: Dissemination channels - Digital professional network and Professional Identity

A Third Space digital expert will guide participants in building a professional digital presence to enhance credibility. Participants will create or refine their digital profiles (e.g., LinkedIn, blogs, ePortfolios) and develop strategies to showcase their research and accomplishments.

Topic 3: Dissemination channels - conferences, forums, symposiums, events

A Third Space professional will provide insights into crafting engaging presentations and posters for conferences, forums, symposiums or events. Participants will have the opportunity to be taken through the submission process from start to end to presentation.

Topic 4 – Dissemination channels - peer-reviewed journals

An experienced journal editor or author will introduce participants to writing and submitting research papers, covering structure, referencing, and responding to reviewer comments. Participants will critique journals and review abstracts to appreciate the various types of journals out there.

Topic 5: Crafting a research proposal

A thought leader in reflective practice will demonstrate how to incorporate feedback into research for continuous improvement. Participants will engage in a peer review exercise, critiquing each other's work to enhance their ability to give and receive constructive feedback.

Benefits for participants

- Through mentorship and expert workshops, participants will gain practical skills in research design, writing, and dissemination.
- The program will enhance participants' research capability.
- Participants will build lasting relationships with peers and mentors, gaining access to collaborative opportunities and professional networks.

Benefits for the Third Space learning design discipline

- The unique perspectives of Third Space professionals will enrich the learning design field with innovative ideas and practical solutions and promote knowledge exchange.
- This initiative will build a pipeline of research active, Third Space professionals who will continue to contribute to the academic and professional communities promoting sustained growth.
- As participants grow, they will mentor future Third Space professionals, creating a cycle of growth and expertise within the community promoting reciprocal contribution.

Overall, the proposed CMP-ASCILITE Learning Design SIG 'Research' mentorship program, will be an invaluable resource for Third Space professionals. By fostering

research development, peer learning, and academic engagement, the program will build a strong foundation for both individual growth and the continued evolution of the learning design discipline. Through mentorship and hands-on workshops, this initiative will elevate the contributions of Third Space professionals to the broader ASCILITE and Third Space communities.

Proposed Timeline and Numbers

- **Mentees:** approximately 10 from the Third Space community
- **Process:** EOI submissions through CMP 2025 requiring candidates to submit 200 words to the following questions:
 1. Why this program would align with their current and future career aspirations.
 2. Engagement with the program and events
 3. Willingness to reciprocal support back to other mentees in the Third Space community.

Successful candidates notified as per the CMP schedule.

- **Program structure:** 10 month program starting February to November 2025.
- **Mentor/mentee meetings frequency:** Monthly
- **Expert mini workshops:** 5 x 1hr online
- **Other:** Mentor/Mentee contract agreement outlining goals as per the CMP program.

Measures of Success

- **Mentor/mentee engagement:** regular, productive mentorship meetings with clear goals and deliverables.
- **Workshop participation:** high engagement and completion of activities in the expert workshops, with tangible takeaways such as research proposals or digital profiles.
- **Research output:** participants' submission of research to conferences or journals, with feedback from mentors and peers.
- **Community building:** establishment of lasting professional networks among participants and mentors, measured by post-program feedback survey and collaborative efforts.

CMP-ASCILITE LD SIG encourages participation from highly dedicated Third Space professionals to ensure maximum benefit from the program. Consistent commitment is key to achieving meaningful outcomes. If you're unable to fully commit at this time, we recommend waiting until you're ready to engage fully.