

Module 4 - Scholarly teaching – introduction

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Hi, my name is Kym Fraser. I am an Associate Professor Higher Education at Swinburne University. My colleague Bernie Fisher from the Australian Catholic University and I have developed this module. Being a scholarly teacher and engaging in learning and teaching research can make a real difference – to your students' learning, to your teaching practice, and to your career through your applications for teaching awards and for promotion.

As you will see from the module outline, there are five intended learning outcomes for the module. We will explore what it means to be a scholarly teacher and contrast that with being a learning and teaching researcher or SOTL – the scholarship of teaching and learning. The difference between being a scholarly teacher and engaging in SOTL is important because once you understand the difference, you can decide what you need and want to do at this stage of your career – do you want to be a scholarly teacher or be a scholarly teacher who engages in learning and teaching research? It's your choice.

You won't be surprised to know that SOTL is a contested field in the literature. We will look at different perspectives – what do some say is the value of SOTL, what are the concerns that others have about SOTL.

To be a scholarly teacher, you need to be able to evaluate your teaching so we will look at some evaluation strategies to help you make decisions about what to evaluate and improve. We also ask you to find sources of support in your institution that you can use across your teaching career.

One of the outcomes for you completing this module is to help you think about the teaching evidence that you will need to collect over the next few years to help advance your career, including the teaching evidence that you could use when you apply for promotion.

We're really pleased that you chose to enrol in this module and sincerely hope that it helps you to be an even more informed and reflective teacher. Bernie and I look forward to seeing you online.



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