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# Towards new pedagogical signatures for learner autonomy

Saturday 17 May 2025 11:30 (1 minute)

#### **TITLE**

Towards new pedagogical signatures for learner autonomy

## **RELEVANT SIG**

Learner Development

## **FORMAT**

In-person interactive poster session

## **Short English description**

## **KEYWORDS**

multiple viewpoints learner autonomy critical incident role-plays human rights

## First-time presenter?

#### **ABSTRACT**

Making sense of multiple viewpoints –particularly our own and those of the students we teach –is necessary for deepening our pedagogical understanding and practices, especially when we make fundamental shifts in (re-)conceptualising learner autonomy. This poster session explores one such shift in my own practices by examining how, in the 2024 academic year in a first-and second year English course on human rights, students used critical incident role-plays (involving two protagonists with different interests and power) to explore issues such as climate change, corporal punishment, and labour rights. In their final projects, each student presented their research in small groups, then invited listeners to act out a critical incident, before

discussing the issue together. Enabling students to embody human rights issues from the inside, such roleplays proved challenging but engaging. Extended student reflections in weekly human rights diaries also provided fresh perspectives for me as the teacher in deconstructing and (re-)framing learner and teacher roles, critical thinking, and the role of evaluation, in this shift. In this presentation I focus on such reflective deconstruction, and the unexpected perspectives that it has opened up towards new pedagogical signatures for learner autonomy in human rights education.

Author: Dr BARFIELD, Andy (Chuo University)

Presenter: Dr BARFIELD, Andy (Chuo University)

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