ONLINE EDUCATION: TEACHING IN A TIME OF CHANGE

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Education at times of uncertainty: are we treading on eggshells?

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• Abstract (300 words):
This discursive project was a reaction to the rapidly changing reality of our teaching practices while trying to adapt to the 'new present' for higher education (HE). Aiming to bring together theories and practices in a 'blended' multidisciplinary approach that mirrors our current mode of working, we co-designed and co-authored an experimental dialogue between two disciplines: education and architecture. Drawing from our experience with the digital classroom and the design studio we are engaging in a dialogue as we are trying to create a bridge between our disciplines so that we can learn from each other. Our discussion highlights the limitations of concepts such as 'remote' and/or 'digital' teaching and learning and we propose the concept of 'digital education' as an all-encompassing term that conceptualises education as a holistic endeavour. Following from this we are trying to disentangle the makeup of what we call 'digital educational space', by focusing not only on the technicalities but most importantly on the processes and the relationships between the people, while also debating the importance and the nature of engagement. We are concluding by
highlighting the affordances of this new reality that may inform our next steps, as we are working our way through an area with no pre-existing protocols. Although this project started as a dialogue between ‘education’ and ‘architecture’, we believe that our thoughts and our conclusions resonate with and may help inform practices and discussion within the wider area of national and global HE.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Dr Pavlina Nikita (full name: Dimitra Pavlina Nikita) is a Lecturer in Education Studies and Early Years at Nottingham Trent University. She works in the field of policy sociology and her research interests revolve around new forms and types of governance and governmentality in education considering the effect of wider political and social trends on educational structures and practices. In particular, she is interested in the involvement of non-state actors in processes of education policy-making and the delivery of educational services. Her interests also include the introduction of practices of managerialism and performativity in education and the development of alternative structures of educational provision.

Diony Kypraiou is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Architecture + Cities at University of Westminster where she leads year three in BA(Hons) Interior Architecture. Trained as an architectural designer, she is completing her PhD by Design at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL where she also teaches. She is an Adjunct Professor in the Syracuse University London (SUL) and an Associate Fellow for the Higher Education Academy (HEA). Diony lectures on architecture, interior design and she exhibits and publishes work in the UK and abroad.