

**ABSTRACT  
PARALLEL WORKING SESSION**

**TEACHING & LEARNING**

**Laura Czerniewicz**  
Director  
Centre for Educational Technology  
University of Cape Town

**The Centre for Educational Technology at  
the University of Cape Town: Lessons learnt**

Like other universities in developing countries and beyond, the University of Cape Town (UCT) is under pressure to respond to a new information order, to address and resolve social tensions in an unequal society, and to transform itself in a situation of increasing resource constraints. Integral to these all imperatives are information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Launched in 2005, The Centre for Educational Technology (CET) at UCT was set up to promote, enable, develop and investigate pedagogically effective, innovative and transformative uses of ICTs for teaching and learning in higher education, especially at UCT. The scope of CET's activities is unusually wide and includes staff development, learning technologies development and support, curriculum development and online resources, post-graduate teaching and research.

Following a brief overview with some examples of CET activities, the presentation focuses on the lessons learnt over the last four years as CET has responded to the challenges presented by, and taken advantage of opportunities unfolding in a complex, rapidly changing environment. In particular the presentation will focus on issues of change, community building, innovation, the reconfiguration of higher education traditions, and the complications of operating in an emergent scholarly and professional field.