Heriot-Watt University Learning and Teaching Conference 2025 Keynote

Professor Christina Gitsaki (Zayed University)

"Navigating Belonging and Employability: Transnational Education in the Age of AI"

Wednesday 4 June 2025, 8-9am UK | 11am-12 noon Dubai | 3-4pm Malaysia

[Book a place for Prof. Gitsaki's keynote on 4 June](#).

Abstract: Navigating Belonging and Employability: Transnational Education in the Age of AI

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and increasing global mobility, the intersections of belonging, community, and transnational education present critical considerations for students navigating higher education and the job market. This presentation explores how transnational education shapes students' sense of identity and belonging while preparing them for an evolving workforce increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence (AI).

As AI transforms job-seeking processes—from automated recruitment tools to AI-driven skill assessments—students and graduates must negotiate both opportunities and challenges in securing employment. This talk examines how transnational educational experiences influence career readiness, networking, and adaptability in a digitized job market. Additionally, it considers how AI may either bridge or exacerbate disparities in access to employment for globally mobile graduates.

Ultimately, this presentation highlights the need for educational institutions and policymakers to foster inclusive communities that support students' professional and personal development, ensuring that transnational learners are equipped to thrive in an AI-augmented workforce while maintaining a sense of belonging across borders.

Biography:

Prof. Dr. Christina Gitsaki is the Research Coordinator at Zayed University, UAE. In the past, she served as the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research in Education in the UAE and later as the Associate Dean of the Foundations program at the Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE. Before coming to the UAE, she worked at The University of Queensland (UQ) in Australia, where she educated pre-service teachers and supervised Master's and Ph.D. students in educational research. She has worked with Education

Queensland and The Learning Federation of the Curriculum Corporation, Australia on state and federal education projects such as the creation of digital Learning Objects for K-12 ESL students. At Zayed University she oversees the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning course, the development of resources for research and she provides advice and mentorship to faculty who are interested in engaging in research on teaching and learning.

Conference information

Full conference information is available on the [Heriot-Watt Learning and Teaching Academy website](#).