Signature Assessments: disciplinary dimensions

- Conceptual
  - content knowledge
- Moral
  - evaluate and choose responsible actions
- Epistemological
  - what constitutes knowledge
- Material
  - objects, tools, products and physical spaces
- Social
  - social structures of the practice

Assessment practices in Trinity Faculties & Schools

Teaching, Learning and Assessment survey 2020/2021
- Incidence of online assessments experienced by students during the 2020-21 academic year, by Faculty

Focus Group Interviews
- Summer 2021
  - AHSS – 8 staff, 5 schools
  - STEM – 9 staff, 3 schools
  - Health Sciences – 5 staff, 5 schools
- Assessments that worked during the pandemic

Using the taxonomy - an example

Dimensions
- Conceptual
  - Implicitly Assessed
- Epistemological
  - Design Decisions
- Social
  - Inter professional communication & presentations
- Material
  - Use of relevant tools
- Moral
  - Ethics of Design

Balance of dimensions and areas lacking assessment as identified by academic staff in the discipline

- Conceptual (?)
- Environmental aspects (moral?)
- Link to strategic goal of the profession

Gathering data

Spotlight Series Spring 2022
- Academic staff presented the challenges and opportunities for digital assessments (Essays, Field Trips, Clinical Practice) in their discipline.

Assessment & Feedback Autumn 2022
- Five disciplines covered

Impact

Reviewing assessment through the lens of the signature assessment taxonomy can highlight assessment balance (or lack thereof) across the five dimensions of disciplinarity.
This will facilitate in the design of assessment authentic to the discipline, signature assessments that allow students to generate

‘at least some assessment tasks ... should reflect the deep and implicit structures of a discipline and its knowledge generation practices’

Background & References

Trinity College Dublin has 24 disciplinary schools organised into three faculties: Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS); Science, Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM); and Health Sciences (HS). In the academic year of 2020/2021 there were 18871 students registered and 948 academic staff involved in teaching.

4. Using the taxonomy - an example

All images were sourced in either PowerPoint, the Noun Project, or Free SVG (https://freesvg.org/).