**International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning**

**2016 Conference**

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**Handout for**

Session 1, Pre-conference workshop: Using Personal Networks and Social Network Theory to Improve Teaching and Learning (Wednesday, October 12, 1:30 pm – 5 pm)

Session 2, Main conference workshop: Tales of teaching and learning: Whose stories matter to you and why? (Friday, October 14, 11 am – 12:30 pm)

Guiding Questions for Workshops

1) How are educators using networks in their own contexts to expand, refute or build their stories of teaching and learning and of SoTL?

(2) Do instructors perceive greater similarity among network members than among randomly chosen colleagues?

(3) Are there relationships among perceived similarity, value of interactions, and impact of the network on one’s teaching and research on teaching?

**Key Terms**

**Significant networks**

* A network consists of individuals and the interactional links between them.
* Network participants come together on a common objective
* Networks allow for the exchange of resources and for capacity building; they allow members to collaboratively develop knowledge

**Significant conversations**

Significant conversations have the potential to help university teachers see things through someone else’s perspective. They may shape and/or expand an individual’s identity as teachers.

* Private
* Trustful
* Intellectually intriguing

**Social network theory**

* Is the study of how people, organizations or groups interact with others inside their network (Claywell, 2016)
* Can be applied to small groups as well as those that are global (Kadushin, 2004)
* Can be used to describe various forms of interactions, i.e., the exchange of advice, knowledge, materials, and resources (Pataraia et al., 2013).

**Williams et al. model (2013)**



**My notes**

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