

Podmag Script: Week 2

Intro music

K: Hi, and welcome to the Podmag. I'm Karen Foley

D: And I'm Dave Middleton. This is our second edition of the Podmag, a weekly download from the faculty of Social Science.

K: So Dave, what's the plan for today.

D: Well, after last week's announcement about Meg Barker doing a keynote talk at our "Student Connections" conference in July, I thought I'd find out where her office was... And do you know its two floors up from this very bunker.

K: Dave I wish you would stop calling this a bunker.

D: Ok – fair enough, I'll call it what it is – let me just move this broom.

K: So I take it you have plans to see what Meg's office is like?

D: Yes, AND I'm going to go and talk to her later about what she is planning to do at our conference.

K: Sounds great Dave – I'll look forward to that!

D: Yeah, she's very enthusiastic about the conference, as are many of the others in Milton Keynes. I think that we could easily have a whole month of talks from willing speakers in Milton Keynes alone!

K: Well, it's great to see enthusiasm isn't it, but this is all about our students Dave, and many of them will have insights and stories to share at the conference that will be equally as fascinating.

D: That's a good point. In fact Karen, did you know that what the students really like about this Podmag is not you and I... No, they like listening to other students most of all.

K: I don't blame them Dave.... Well I do!!, it's just as well that neither you or I get worried about that sort of thing, no, we put a lot of effort into this, well, as long as the students are happy then that suits me just fine.

D: Anyway, enough of me moaning about the students, what sort of a week have you had Karen?

K: Well Dave, I've been at a mentoring event this week. It was put on for students who are interested in peer to peer mentoring. Since our listeners like hearing from the other students, let's listen to what they had to say.

VOX POPS mentoring

K: What is your name? Natalie Holland???

Natalie: I'm hoping that I can meet some people in the same sort of situation, I'm a stay at home mum, I'm disabled, I'm ill, I don't see people very often, so I would like to just meet some people in the same sort of thing and if I can help anyone in the same situation then that would be great.

I'm Rob Wilkinson I'm from Cwmbran, I'm currently studying DSE212 psychology which is quite interesting, so far.

D: What are you doing here today?

It's to do with mentoring, I know very little about it apart from that, I think it is to help other students. I'm not sure.

K: Sorry I've forgotten your name already.

Kirsten, basically I chose to do this to build my self-confidence and to be able to gain skills to work and help others perhaps that have a disability or have problems studying and achieving.

D: So I've found another victim and would you like to introduce yourself.

Hi, I'm Kylie Donnelly, I'm a mother and I'm also in the middle of moving house, hence the reason why I am behind and I work part time and that's about it really.

D: How's it all gone then?

It's great, I've really enjoyed it, did not quite know what to expect but it has been a great day and I wish there were a few more.

I thoroughly enjoyed it, yeah, I learnt a lot and I am hoping that I will be able to progress in mentoring people, hopefully.

D: Well, I'm sure you will. You look like you will be a good mentor.

D: And have you had a good day?

I've had a fabulous day, I think it's definitely enhanced my understanding of mentoring a lot more.

D: That sounds like a really good event. Those students are so enthusiastic. It's often the case you know, that people think of OU study as a very isolated experience

K: Yes, it always amazes me how people can squeeze study into their busy lives and make friends at the same time. In fact I met one of my best friends when we were doing OU study many many years ago.

D: Well, that kind of brings me onto the next thing, I wanted to talk about.... our audio download drama called "This student life" which goes out live tomorrow from the link on the common room on your qualifications website. If you like listening to this Podmag and even if you don't like listening to this Podmag, you should definitely check it out.

K: Last week we heard a little preview, but in this first episode we see the drama start to unfold for our three students, Donna, Katie and Neil.

D: They are all beginning their journey on DD101 – the first level social sciences module. [You can download the full version from tomorrow on the qualifications website.](#)

PREVIEW TSL

K: OK Dave, so what's next?

D: Well, I think I will go upstairs now and see if Meg Barker is around.

Footsteps

K. Door open. He'll be back in a minute.

D: So here I am near the palatial suites where all the academics live. It's got a really lovely view. If I look out of this wonderful window I can just see the Dean down there just doing a few laps in the faculty swimming pool.

(Splish splish)

D: There he goes, fantastic.

D: OK so I'm with Meg Barker, Meg, you are going to be the keynote speaker at the "Student Connections" conference.

M: I am, Yes.

D: What made you think that would be a good idea?

M: Well for us central academics at the Open University, we don't get to see that many students because most students see their staff in their regional offices. So that's a really exciting opportunity for us to talk to students about our research and the work we are engaged with.

D: OK so what's your talk going to be titled?

M: Well at the conference the title will be "rewriting the rules of relationships". But basically, it's based on a book that I have written which is a popular psychology style book about relationships and the talk will be a kind of an overview of the main points within that book, effectively.

D: OK give us more of a flavour then of what might be in the book.

M: Absolutely, the idea in the book is to think that a lot of self-help about relationships says that any problems you have in relationships are inside you really, they are in your personality or you could be better at understanding how men and women work, like men are from mars and women are from Venus. My book does something different, it suggests that a lot of the problems we have in relationships are due to the social rules that we receive about relationships, like how we need to find the one "perfect" person who will make us happy ever after and that puts a lot of pressure on relationships, so the book looks for different aspects of relationships, the book says what are the social rules, why might we question them, what alternatives are there that have been put in their

place and what would happen if we got rid of rules altogether and embraced the uncertainty of relationships.

D: That sounds fascinating, I can't wait.

M: It's going to be good.

D: Brilliant, thank you very much.

K: Good interview Dave. I look forward to hearing more from Meg at the conference.

D: Is the listener aware of the conference?

K: Not sure – he may have popped out. I think his mum wanted him to do some shopping.

D: Well, on the odd chance that anyone else is listening, in July 2014 we are holding a week long online conference called "Student Connections". We will be talking about these lots on this Podmag, and we want you, the students, to be the stars of the show.

K: We will be offering a range of training sessions for those who want to improve particular skills, and you can find out more about this on the qualifications website.

D: But we are also going to showcase some of our own talent.

K: That won't take long!

D: No, not our talent. The Open University has some incredible academics and we want to give students the chance to hear from them also.

K: Good stuff. So are you going to make another announcement Dave?

D: Well Yes, as a matter of fact Karen, I am. Whilst I was coming back from Megs office, I bumped into my old friend, Peter Redman, he was just coming out of the faculty sauna.

MUSIC:

D: I'd like to announce, that we have confirmed Peter Redman as another keynote speaker.

K: Ah, Peter Redman – the author of "The good study guide"?

D: Yes, and he says he will be happy to talk about study skills at the conference.

K: Fantastic – that will be really interesting. So, back to these students Dave. Last week we asked them who they would like to thank for supporting them in their studies.

D: Yes, we were inundated with an email. We don't have time to read it all out, but here are some of our favourites.

KAREN AND DAVE READ OUT THE EMAILS

K: You can add your thanks to our forum discussion on the Qualifications Forum.

D: Next week, we'd like to hear what you think of our new Drama – This student life.

K: Drop us an email and let us know your thoughts.

K: We would also like to know a little about how you felt when you started your OU journey. Did you feel nervous or excited, or maybe nervously excited? Did you rip open the box the minute it arrived or did you leave it in the corner of the room for a couple of days wondering what was inside.

D: Yes, I had this fear of my box, I was so relieved when I opened it and it was just a book.

K: I'm not even going to ask what you thought may be in there.

D: So come on listener, tell us what you were thinking when you got started.

K: Email us at podmag@open.ac.uk.

K: Well that's all for this week, see you next time.