

PodMag script – Week One

Intro music

D: Welcome to this first edition of Podmag, I'm Dave Middleton,

K: and I'm Karen Foley

D: We're underground, in our bunker deep deep in the heart of the faculty of Social Sciences here at the OU in Milton Keynes. Don't worry if you hear any strange sounds in the background. It will just be the sounds of the ghost of Social Sciences past, rattling their epistemological chains by the lifts.... Anyway, we're really excited about this new weekly audio magazine from the Faculty of Social Sciences.

K: So Dave, Our listeners are probably wondering what this Podmag is all about.

D: Essentially, this podmag is about you, the social science students at the OU. We want you to share your stories, your ideas and your questions. It's also going to be about things that are happening in the faculty. Later on, we've got an exciting announcement about an online student conference and a brand new drama. But, it's the student voice we are most interested to hear.

K: Well the best place to talk to students is at a tutorial venue

D: But a lot of students don't actually go to those.

K: mmmmmm Funnily enough I was at a tutorial on the weekend and I spoke to students about exactly that.. Let's hear what they said:

VOX POP

Right, I'm Karen Foley and I'm just at the start of my DD101 day school. And some students have come into the room and I'm going to ask them what they are expecting from this mysterious day school.

Hi, I'm Kathryn, I'm expecting to meet other people doing the same course. A bit more, sort of knowledge around assignments and essay writing and just to really have a bit of fun as well.

Hi, my name is Vicky and I haven't been to an Open University tutorial before so I'm not really, I don't know what to expect really. Just a more general overview of the course and meeting other people doing the course that would be nice.

Hi, my name is Katie, I don't really have any expectations today, just come in to get a bit more knowledge about what needs to be done and what the course is all about and just to make sure that I'm on the right track to be honest.

How are you finding today then? Half way through the day school, how is it going? I'm finding it really good, I've met lots of different people I did not know before, putting some faces to names I've seen on the forums, yeah kind of just the social aspect of it I'm finding it really good.

I'm find the day really interesting so far, I've got a chance to clear up any questions that I had and also meet other people on the course, to talk about the course and get to know them, get to make some friends and it made me realise that there is support out there and you are not just sat in your room with a book. Everyone has the same concerns as you so it's made me feel more confident and comfortable for the upcoming TMA.

Hi, I'm Shanon Jones, I'm beginning with Social Sciences leading hopefully into getting a psychology degree.

Since I've started doing the course I've started noticing other things, I do not walk down the street anymore with blinkers on just heading in my direction, I notice things going on around me and it makes you really really open your eyes and think.

D: That sounded like great fun

K: Yes it was a fantastic day – everyone really enjoyed working as a group and getting to know the faces behind the names on the forums.

D: If you've got a tutorial coming up and would like us to visit, why not email us at our new email address podmag@open.ac.uk and we'll see if we can come and visit you.

K: So what's this big announcement that you promised earlier Dave.

D: OK – well it's an online conference called "Student Connections" and it's happening in July 2014. It is going to be the largest gathering of social science students in Europe, and I'm inviting everybody listening to get involved.

K: What does getting involved actually entail?

D: Well firstly, just turning up for as many sessions as you want to.

K: We should clarify that this conference isn't designed for students to just turn up and listen to a range of academic speakers, although some of that will be going on. It's more about students presenting their ideas, and talking about the things that they feel passionate about.

D: And not just talking – we want people to think about creating podcasts, short videos, posters, blogs, actually we're open to any medium that gets their message across.

K: We're offering a range of training courses to help those students who want to develop skills to take part.

D: This will be a really fantastic event. We're really excited about it, and in the coming weeks we will be confirming all the keynote speakers and beginning to put in place the workshop programme so that students can register for these. This podmag will be essential listening to keep up to date with conference developments, and hear from other students as their ideas are progressing.

K: And I'm going to make the first big conference announcement. (music) We've just heard back from Meg Barker who has agreed to be one of our keynote speakers.

D: That is great news. Meg's research into sexuality is really interesting – I'll definitely be signing up for that one and what I am going to try to do for next week is to see if I can get Meg to talk about what her research is about and what she is going to be doing at the conference.

K: Fantastic, right, well we can't spend the whole of this first podmag talking about the conference, but I bet students want to know more.

D: The information is on your qualifications website in the section entitled Student Common room.

K: Great, so we've talked a little about why we're doing this podmag, and the conference. What else is new?

D: Well, there is "This student Life", which will be another download file, and is a weekly audio podcast and people are not going to want to miss this!

K: The drama follows 3 students, Neil, Katie and Donna who are all on the same module and become friends in rather unlikely circumstances.

D: We'll let's have a little listen to what's coming up....

Insert audio TSL

D: Listen I don't want to be personal, you are not going to take this the wrong way are you?

N: Of course not, tell me the truth, I can take it, it is rubbish isn't it?

D: No, well, not exactly, it's just, ok, it's your spelling, it can be a bit difficult to read, it's not that just you mis-spell loads of words, but you get them in the wrong order and sometimes you miss them out altogether.

N: Oh right, that's all is it, I'm just illiterate is that it?

D: Look don't shoot me I'm just the messenger it probably just needs a good edit. I'll give you a hand if you want.

N: Stick it, I'm going to go and see where my bloody toast is. Oi, I ordered a round of toast ten minutes ago any chance it might arrive before I starve to death.

Donna: I never thought it would be so hard writing 750 words.

Ted: Are you coming down tonight Donna.

Donna: I'm sorry Ted but I'm really struggling with this essay.

Ted: Well I think I told you that you would find it hard at your age.

Donna: Thanks Ted, it's got nothing to do with my age, I'm just finding it hard, give me another half an hour.

????: Your door bell is not working,
??? the battery must of run out, come in then,
??? I wish I got this much post
??? No you don't, they are all bills
??? All of these, you must owe a fortune
??? It's not as bad as it looks, I'm just leaving it till the end of the month that's all
??? So what's up, why the come over ASAP
???? Oh that
???? Yes that
??? Sorry, I was just getting a bit panicky
??? About what?
??? It's the first one
??? Don't worry you will be fine
??? I'm not so sure Share
??? I thought it was OK, but I'm really worried now, I think not knowing is rather comforting

K: Sounds brilliant. I actually thought that Cheryl was a very good actress.

D: I thought she was rubbish, but Dave was a real star. (laughter)

K: Well if you want to listen to this it will be available on the qualifications website from next week.
So, back to this podmag – let's tell our listeners what's coming up.

D: Well there are a whole lot of things... but some of these depend on the people listening to this audio getting in touch with us via our email which is podmag@open.ac.uk

D: We'll be doing some features on social science concepts and getting up to date with where debates are on ideas like nature/nurture, power, identity and globalisation.

K We'll be doing a special issue on avoiding plagiarism, and we have also got plans to have features on getting the best from tutorials, dealing with disability, writing in the social sciences, but mostly what we want is for students to tell us their stories.

D: WE want you to contact us either by email or through the faculty facebook page. One of the duties I fulfil as an academic is the annual degree ceremony. They are fantastic occasions. Nevermore so that when students give a round of applause to their families and friends who have supported them. But I think that you might want to thank people before you complete your degree.

So, if you've got somebody you want to thank, whether it is a family member, a friend, or a tutor, send us an email telling us who they are and why they deserve your thanks.

K: We'll be reading out your thanks in the coming weeks. And if you have any questions, ideas, or feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Get in touch with us by email at podmag@open.ac.uk

D: And that is the end of this edition of the podmag. Have a good week and see you next time.