

PodMag Week 24

Date: 16 June 2014

Karen:

Hi and welcome to the PodMag, I'm Karen Foley.

Dave:

And I'm Dave Middleton.

Karen: (*excitedly*)

It's two weeks before the conference and finally, we have our new recording studio, it's all clean and tidy and I'm very, very happy!

Dave:

It's looking great isn't it, it's really spick and span, I must say a big thank you to Eugenie for all the work she put in and to the Dean, really you can ignore most of her letter, none of that stuff happened there was no locking of doors or anything.

Karen:

Try; try not to talk about it on air.

Dave:

Anyway, have a seat.

Karen:

Ah, thank you yes,

Dave:

So erm,

Karen: (*mock anger*)

Oh! This seat, look, look at this, this seats filthy.

Dave:

Oh! Well to be honest, Eugenie never quite finished the whole thing and I said I would finish off and I was just doing the tops here and I was going to do the seats just before you came in but then

Karen: (*mock anger*)

Well I hope this is all rectified before the conference!

Dave:

Well I found this, this great wall chart, and I was just looking at it

Karen:

The World Cup?

Dave:

The World Cup Wall chart, I was just looking at it and trying to work out their

Karen:

And it was just there by accident was it? Dave we must remember this conference is the most exciting thing in June, not this football thing.

Dave:

Oh really, Oh Ok yeah that's quite right, the conference is very exciting, but what do you reckon? Do you think Brazil home an advantage?

Karen:

Yep ok, look at this programme. So for those of you that haven't had a chance to look at the programme, and I do refer to the student conference section, not the world cup! You can check it out on the website so [connections.kmi.open.ac.uk](http://connections.kmi.open.ac.uk). There you'll see the programme for each day, so for Monday 30 June to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July you'll see a whole range of what's up and you can check out all of the biographies and abstracts for all of the speakers and see what you're interested in attending.

Dave:

Really fantastic website and I have to say a big thank you to our web site designer, Jeff Austin who has made a brilliant job of making this come alive for us.

Karen:

But who never listens to the PodMags!

Dave:

No he doesn't, but he might do if he thinks he gets a mention on it. The other thing that might actually make him listen to it is if I actually paid him some money, which I'm probably not going to too do, so it's a good job he doesn't listen. But do you know what, I think the website is really good because you can get to see whose speaking, you can find out a little bit about them and you can see the entire programme and you can connect by other forums, and the forums will be going live next week so do try and get involved in the forums as well. It's not just a conference of people talking and discussing and listening and watching although all of that will be going on, it's also a place where you can get involved through blogging, forums and through social media.

Karen:

So brilliant, the way the conference is going to work is you log on to the website, the [connections.kmi.open.ac.uk](http://connections.kmi.open.ac.uk) website anybody can log on, right you don't have to be an Open University student, you don't even have to be studying social sciences. Hopefully there will be something in this programme to excite everybody who has an interest in the world around us. You can come to the conference and you can look at the live stream on the video, you can engage in chat, as Dave said, and if you want to be featured in the PodMag you can send us a tweet or put something up on our Faculty Facebook page as well. We'll be doing PodMags at the beginning and end of everyday so we would really, really welcome your thoughts in addition to the thoughts on the forum for each of the individual sessions. We are really hoping that this will be a place where students can connect.

Dave:

Yeah and erm just looking at this wall chart what do you think ...

Karen: (*exasperated*)

Would you leave that wall chart alone otherwise I'm going to have to confiscate it.

Dave:

I'll be very disappointed if England go out.

Karen:

Well we've got a week or so before the conference starts so hopefully

Dave:

Hopefully they would have gone out

Karen (laughs)

Dave:

Is that what you're saying?

Karen: (*Laughing*)

No, no I can't be seen to be saying that can I (laughing) that would be horrendous

Dave:

It would

Karen:

I'd get a complaint from our listeners.

Dave:

You would.

Karen:

Harley Jack.

Dave:

I don't know that Harley Jack has a great interest in football, but I'm sure he'll let us know. Anyway just moving back to the other event that's taking place, it's really going to be really interesting because the PodMag will actually be going out live. Now people won't actually realise this because we are so slick, people just assume that it's live they don't realise that we record this 10 mins or so before it goes out

Karen:

Yes absolutely.

Dave:

We get it up to the minute news and views and oh, oh thinking of up to the minute news, the European elections are coming up

Karen

Right, I don't have time for all that Dave

Dave:

You don't pay any attention do you?

Karen: (*laughing*)

Dave:

To the world! Just to show how topical we are.

Karen:

Well unfortunately we are not going to be able to do that at the conference and the other thing difference is we're going to have the PodMag live on video.

Dave:

The truth is Karen if I edited out all your lack of knowledge, there wouldn't actually be that much left in here, so we'll probably keep that in.

Karen: *(long pause)*

Right

Dave:

Oh I've upset her now listener, anyway shall we move on? So we do hope that everyone is going to get involved. We had a chat with some students and Karen has been interviewing some of the students as they've been coming along to think about their presentations and here's a couple of those students talking about what their presentations are going to be on.

Karen:

So I'm interviewing Gillian Rose. Gillian you're talking at the Students Connections Conference, can you tell us a bit about what you're going to be talking about?

Gillian:

Yes. I'm going to be talking about something which I think everybody is familiar with so when you're going out in town or in a village, a new building is going up. 9 times out of 10 on the hoarding's around the building site there will be an image of what the building is going to look like when it's finished. Those images are created digitally know and erm and that's what I'm going to be talking about, how they're made.

Karen,

Great, fantastic cause you're actually, you went out as a researcher and conducted this research, can you tell us like, what's the most interesting thing for you that came out of it was.

Gillian:

Yeah I mean one of the pleasures of research is always going to places that I would never otherwise of been able to get to (laughs) and what we were doing in relation to those images is look at images and how they were produced. So I got into architects offices and visualised studios and so on and peered over the shoulders of these really creative people, and got to see them at work, creating these things that when you see them they look so finished, perfect, glossy but to actually see the iterate process and the current technologies that are being used to create them was fascinating.

Karen:

Fantastic. So I'm interviewing Ruth Tudor, you're doing a talk at the Student Connections Conference, can you tell us what you're going to be talking about?

Ruth:

Yes I'm going to be talking about the charging to use the NHS.

Karen:

And what interested you in this issue?

Ruth:

Erm it was the social inequality that we felt was quite important because charging a flat rate to use the NHS is going to effect, you know, no matter how cheap it is or how expensive it is, it's going to introduce a social inequality into how we use the NHS and how we access the NHS.

Karen:

Fantastic, and you've worked on this through the active session haven't you with Patricia Bates. Can you tell me a little bit about how you've come together and how you've both worked on this presentation?

Ruth:

Yes certainly, we met over the, through the activate team sessions and it was a case of when we were deciding what to talk about, we both expressed an interest in the same thing erm and we talked to each other through the activate sessions and then because we weren't always able to manage them, we swapped e-mails and continued our conversations that way. Erm and then sat down together, well on-line together over the weekend and erm and worked together to get it all done

Karen:

Fantastic, so you've literally been able to do this at a distance and now you've come to Milton Keynes to do the presentation.

Ruth:

Yes I have absolutely no idea where Patricia lives. *(laughs)*

Karen: *(laughs)*

Ruth:

None at all *(laughing)* and of course I live in Scotland, we both have jobs and both have families, were both busy. You know I've been doing some of it on my night shifts because night shifts are a good time to work. You know our work patterns didn't coincide so when I was doing stuff she was sleeping. When I was sleeping she was doing bits and pieces so we would just exchange a lot of e-mails basically.

Karen:

Well fantastic, thank you very much for coming to present at the conference and look forward to seeing your presentation.

Ruth:

Thank you.

Dave:

Well I think those are really, really interesting they sound like they're going to be great talks, I can't wait to actually see them.

Karen:

Right I'm back now

Dave:

Oh I didn't notice you'd gone!

Karen:

Yes I went to the Politics department again.

Dave:

Oh really you managed to find that that's good. How are they there?

Karen:

Yeah they're fine, they filled me in. Anyway, interestingly enough we have two students who are talking at the conference about why young people don't vote and why some people voting is seen as a bit boring.

Dave:

Really!

Karen:

Eh mm.

Dave:

Well that sounds fascinating and do you think young people do think that voting is boring?

Karen:

Well it depends on what you're comparing it to doesn't it? I'm sure they'll investigate this with much more academic rigor than I'm doing right now but Mark and Maciej are doing a session and this is going to be a live discussion at the conference and they're going to be talking about Marks PhD research which focuses on some of the barriers around young people voting so that's going to be a very, very exciting addition to the conference.

Dave:

That is fantastic and we really do want students to be involved and we'd like to know your opinions actually. Do you vote? Are you interested in voting? Do you take any interest at all in politics? Are you interested politics but not in voting so you do other things? Do let us know, so you can either e-mail us, the e-mail address is:

Karen:

[PodMag@open.ac.uk](mailto:PodMag@open.ac.uk)

Dave:

Spent a lot of time training Karen on how to say that, finally got it right so that's really nice and er you can get us through our twitter account:

Karen:

atPodMag

Dave:

Or you can use the chat facility we will have streamed through the live conference to let us know what you think so. We really do want to make this a conference that's

interactive. This isn't about you sitting in front of your screen just watching someone tell you things, we do enough of that, no this is a chance for you to talk to people, express opinion and get really involved.

Karen:

And talking about interactivity, I've been asked by the library to participate in their interactive sessions on cybercrime.

Dave:

Really?

Karen:

Yes I have a starring role.

Dave:

And what are you going to do exactly in the libraries

Karen:

I'm going to be a psychologist again.

Dave:

You are, don't you think you are getting a little bit typecast?

Karen:

No. The politics role was certainly (*laughing*) that's put it that way.

Dave:

It is

Karen:

Let's put it that way (*laughing*)

Dave:

They have dried up slightly haven't they; we'll have a word with your agent.

Karen:

(*Laughing*) But basically this is, going to be a really interactive thing where the library taking us through how cybercrime happens and how you can do something about it. So again, really, really topical issue which is of interest to everyone. The careers service are also doing some slots aren't there Dave?

Dave:

Yes but just before we leave the library, can I just remind you that you have a co-starring role because I am also going to be in the library sketch?

Karen:

I knew you were going to say that.

Dave:

And actually I am, and you know obviously I am the star erm but yes

Karen:

In the library sketch?

Dave:

I am playing a villain.

Karen:

Yes I know that

Dave:

I am hilarious

Karen:

And I am going to catch you at your villains activities.

Dave, Oh are you, I didn't know that

Karen

Well I haven't seen the end bit but I presume that's what's going to happen.  
(*laughing*)

Dave:

Well obviously I'm going to have to be more devious

Karen:

(*laughing*)

Dave:

When I do it which does not come naturally to me but I will try. I'll ask you for some tips on that.

Karen:

Ah well, it should be fun away so erm yeah, there's a whole range of interactive things you can do and don't forget the Deans quiz as well. We're hoping that all our listeners will take part in that and you can take part in a range of multi choice questions and see how you do

Dave.

Yes that's going to be really exciting and really fun, it's not a quiz with big prizes, or any prizes at all really or a quiz where you're competing to be the massive winner. It's an opportunity for you to test your knowledge of social science in its most general form and just to see how you do against our panel of experts and they'll be a different panel of experts each day so really looking forward to that, going to be great fun isn't it?

Karen:

Absolutely, now if you're going to be near Milton Keynes at the time and you fancy popping in to the conference, do let us know, you can e-mail us at [connections.kmi.ac.uk](mailto:connections.kmi.ac.uk). We have a small range of seats available at the conference but most people will hopefully enjoy the conference on line so we really hope to see you then.

Dave:



Yeah and forget you can watch recordings of the conference after the event so you don't have to watch it live, you don't have to be glued to your screen for the entire day, dip in and out, just come along. If you only come to one session, just come along, get connected and hopefully we'll be able to put you in touch, if you're a student in particular, put you in touch, if you're a student in particular, put you in touch with other students so after the conference actually closes that groups of students will actually start to connect with one another and can start to develop more student connections which is what the whole things about.

Karen

Well it's been a lot of hard work and Dave and certainly trying working with you. However, I think it's all shaped up to look so good, thanks to all our students, academic s for all their hard work and for everyone else that's been in charge of organising this event, I know it's going to be brilliant

Dave:

And interestingly enough I have noticed you trying to work, next year it would be nice if you could actually succeed.

Karen:

*(Laughing)*

Dave:

Right that's it everybody, it's been fantastic, no we really are looking forward to having everyone there and I'm really looking forward in this strange way to the PodMag live twice a day

Karen:

Where you'll get to talk to me.

Dave:

Yeah, every job has its downside.

Karen:

*(Laughing)*

Dave:

That's going to be fun so do join us for that PodMag live. I've got one more PodMag before that which is next week. We'll play you some more interviews as well so that you can get a sense of what's going to be going on. Don't forget to keep an eye on the Facebook page where we're putting these up and also on the twitter account so that we can let you know when these are available on You Tube to have a look at. They're all about a minute long, won't take you any length of time, just give you an idea of the kind of things that are going to be going on at the conference. It's going to be a fantastic week isn't it?

Karen:

Yeah it will, absolutely. Well that's all for now so have a good week until next time take care.

Dave:

And I'm off for a lay down and a rest as I feel I need it after being told how hard I've been working. See you next week.

Karen:

Byeeee