

**PodMag S2 3 Nov 3**

***The PodMag***

**Karen Foley:**

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

**Dave Middleton:**

And I'm Dave Middleton and I'm in my element here.

**Karen Foley:**

How fabulous.

**Dave Middleton:**

Ah, I just can't believe it. It's new levels of professionalism.

**Karen Foley:**

It is isn't it? Ah, it feels great. So, anyway let's tell our listeners what's on today's show.

**Dave Middleton:**

Well, we've also got some news about what's coming up. So shall we just play, let's put the news jingle on.

**Karen Foley:**

News jingle.

**Dave Middleton:**

Hold on a minute. That's great isn't it?

**Karen Foley:**

I like news jingle.

**Dave Middleton:**

It's brilliant.

**Karen Foley:**

Not bad for 50p. Do the news.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK. So the big news of course is the conference.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah. We can't just go the big news as the conference. The big news is I'm getting ready for tonight's Activate session. How do I look?

**Dave Middleton:**

You look fabulous.

**Karen Foley:**

I think everyone will be delighted with the effort I've made despite that it's online.

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah, I think.

**Karen Foley:**

It's still important to act with decorum as I was told by the Dean recently.

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah. And I've ironed my t-shirt.

**Karen Foley:**

Good, good.

**Dave Middleton:**

Specially. Not the one I've got on obviously because I'm keeping that for later.

**Karen Foley:**

But if you're not sure what to wear tonight don't worry. I mean, a lot of people attend these OU live sessions in their pyjamas. It's on at 8 o'clock tonight. Or if you're listening later in the week you've missed it.

**Dave Middleton:**

They will be a regular feature, it won't be every single Monday. There will be a few that we miss but we will let you know in advance. But assume that is every Monday for the sake of argument.

**Karen Foley:**

For the foreseeable future.

**Dave Middleton:**

It's going to be great. I hope lots of people can join us tonight because it would be really good to have people there.

**Karen Foley:**

I'm looking forward to it. I remember the first one last year and we weren't sure who was coming. And I remember we sat there and you were like, what if no one's got any

ideas. I don't know why we thought that because we couldn't stop all the ideas. It was just incredible wasn't it?

**Dave Middleton:**

It was.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah. Really, really fab. I'm looking forward to that.

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah. It's going to be great. And yeah, we'll be on top form tonight. We're saving ourselves for that session.

**Karen Foley:**

So come along and find out how to get involved in the conference. That's all you need to do. You don't need to prepare anything. You don't need to have any ideas. Just rock up and we'll tell you what's on offer.

So, fab. So let's just finish off with the news then. So we've got dates in the diary for the conference 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**Dave Middleton:**

I can't wait.

**Karen Foley:**

In the comfort of your own home. Activate session starting tonight from 8 o'clock till 9 o'clock on OU Live. So come along and find out how to get involved. It's getting all very professional isn't it?

**Dave Middleton:**

Very professional.

**Karen Foley:**

I can't believe they're letting us do it again quite frankly, but, anyway.

**Dave Middleton:**

No, not after the **furore 00:02:31**.

**Karen Foley:**

Keep going until they stop us.

**Dave Middleton:**

I think so. Until they drag us out of here. Now they've given us this room.

**Karen Foley:**

You seem to be managing the weekly Dean meetings quite well. So I think ...

**Dave Middleton:**

Well that's part of my improvement plan.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah, yeah.

**Dave Middleton:**

It's great. I think it is improving me. I mean we had a chat about diet just the other day. That was really useful actually. I'm eating more fruit and veg now.

**Karen Foley:**

Honestly. You are wasting the Dean's time. Right, OK, so Dave why don't you bring Umut in and ...

**Dave Middleton:**

Hold on a minute, didn't you say you were going to unload your wardrobe for tonight?

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah. I'm going to unpack and I assume that that area there is mine. Well I was thinking if I do shoes on those two and handbags there. And then I'm going to use this notice board thing to pin all my accessories on.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK. So now what I'm going to do is I'm going to fade you out with my fader. So if you'd like to keep on talking I'm just going to fade you out.

OK. I've been joined by Umut Erel who is a Lecturer in Sociology here at the Open University. And he's also a member of the Centre for Citizenship Identities and Governance. And Umut thanks for joining me this morning.

**Umut Erel:**

Hi Dave, it's great to be here.

**Dave Middleton:**

Now can you tell us a little bit about the project? It's about Migrant Mothers, it has a much longer title obviously because it's academic work. It has to have a long title. Can you give us the full title?

**Umut Erel:**

Yes of course. The full title is Migrant Mothers Caring for the Future Creative Interventions in to Citizenship.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK. Well that's really interesting. The way that you've set your research up is actually quite interesting and I know that a lot of students this drives them absolutely nuts that when they get academic work it seems that we go out of our way to use very long words which they think is a conspiracy to confuse them. But you said that Migrant Mothers establish and you call it An Epistemological Community. What is an Epistemological Community?

**Umut Erel:**

Yes. Well it's a community of knowledge if you will. It's a community of understanding. What is really important to us is to say that the people about whom we develop these complex concepts also should have a say and contribute to developing knowledges.

So one of the important parts of this project was that we developed methodology of participatory theatre where the mothers of lots different backgrounds. We had some mothers of Somali backgrounds, Turkish, Kurdish, Nigerian. So really of lots of different backgrounds came together and shared their stories by playing them out. Acting them out, if you will, and often times these were dilemmas let's say, problems in a way. They did not know the solution, for example, how to deal with a difficult teenager.

By acting those scenes the women shared the problems and dilemmas and by playing these scenes, dilemmas, problems, issues out the women are contributing to creating new knowledges.

**Dave Middleton:**

I'm assuming that this knowledge they actually had it's implicit in that they already know it. So this is just bringing to the surface that which they may be didn't even value at all?

**Umut Erel:**

Absolutely, that's very, very true. We did ask the women also, you know, throughout the process what they thought of it. We asked them to reflect about their experiences of participating in the group. And this is exactly right, you know. So many women said, .... well they actually used that word. It's a way of socialisation. So that's exactly what you're saying, you know. People didn't know that they had particular skills in coping, in dealing with difficult situations but by sharing that with others that's when they noticed both about their own knowledges but also about others.

So in that sense it's really a process of creating collective knowledge. Creating, sharing, validating. I mean this is a very fluid process really.

**Dave Middleton:**

That's fabulous. Umut, thanks so much for joining me this morning. I'm going to put up the website, as I say, so that people can go and have a look for themselves at the fabulous work you've been doing. It is really great. It's great that it's being done at the Open University as well. Thanks very much for joining me.

**Umut Erel:**

Thank you very much Dave for giving me the opportunity to talk and share this with our students. Thank you very much.

**Karen Foley:**

Ah, there we go. So what do you think of that Dave? I've had to move some of your stuff, it's looking nice isn't it?

**Dave Middleton:**

You've thrown all my books on the floor in a big box.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah, well you don't need those, you never look at them.

**Dave Middleton:**

That's not the point. When I've got them on the shelves and I have it as a backdrop you see, and people think I'm really intelligent then.

**Karen Foley:**

Oh, well anyway. It's looking good and I've got the hairdresser coming in in five minutes.

**Dave Middleton:**

What do you mean your hairdresser? We're in the middle of a recording here?

**Karen Foley:**

I'm getting ready for tonight.

**Dave Middleton:**

I've got to talk to Jonquil.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah. I've got to get ready for tonight.

**Dave Middleton:**

But, what do you mean you need a hairdresser for tonight for? It's online.

**Karen Foley:**

Standards, Dave.

**Dave Middleton:**

Standards?

**Karen Foley:**

Yes.

**Dave Middleton:**

Have I got to see the hairdresser?

**Karen Foley:**

Actually that wouldn't be such a bad idea.

**Dave Middleton:**

Well I'll tell you what, you go off and see the hairdresser and, I was going to say you go off and see the hairdryer. But you probably will see a hairdryer but it would be a wind farm obviously.

**Karen Foley:**

Alright.

**Dave Middleton:**

You go off and see the hairdresser. I'll see if I can get Jonquil.

**Karen Foley:**

OK, I'll see you in a while anyway.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK. Well don't be too long because we've got to finish this.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah I know.

**Dave Middleton:**

We've got an audience out there now.

**Karen Foley:**

OK. I'll see you soon. I'll see you soon.

**Dave Middleton:**

Well, frankly ...

**Karen Foley:**

She's here now Dave. Hi Jonquil. I'll be back in a minute.

**Dave Middleton:**

Well she isn't in here at all so don't try that old one because I'm going to ring her.

**Karen Foley:**

Oh.

**Dave Middleton:**

You're just trying to get out of the door and pretend there's someone else standing there. This is an old trick. We're supposed to be being professional Karen.

**Karen Foley:**

Oh I forgot about that, sorry.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK. Well I'll see you, have fun.

**Karen Foley:**

Alright.

**Dave Middleton:**

But don't be more than five minutes.

**Karen Foley:**

OK.

**Dave Middleton:**

I'm joined by Jonquil who's on the end of a telephone line. Jonquil, how are you?

**Jonquil Lowe:**

I'm fine, thank you Dave. How are you?

**Dave Middleton:**

I'm very well, very well. Now Jonquil you're going to be a Friday Thinker this week.

**Jonquil Lowe:**

I am and I'm really looking forward to it.

**Dave Middleton:**

Do you normally think on a Friday?

**Jonquil Lowe:**

Well it's the end of the week isn't it, but this Friday I'm definitely going to think.

**Dave Middleton:**



Oh brilliant. Now then what is going to be your question?

**Jonquil Lowe:**

OK. Well the government, you know, they have a budget in March and they have a sort of pre-budget, well they call it the Autumn Statement but it's actually on December 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.

**Dave Middleton:**

It's rather typical of the government, they can't even get the Autumn Statement in the autumn isn't it?

**Jonquil Lowe:**

It's weird isn't it? But this year it was quite interesting because they actually ask the public to submit ideas of what they would like to be included in the Autumn Statement. So my question for Friday is, what single tax benefit or spending change do you think would contribute most to improving the British life?

**Dave Middleton:**

Was that the question that the government asked? Are they interested in improving British life?

**Jonquil Lowe:**

Well, their request was much more open. So it invited people to submit original and innovative ideas to be included in the Autumn Statement. So usually they are looking at tax changes, benefit changes, those kind of things.

And well, I guess we all hope that politicians are interested in improving our lives don't we?

**Dave Middleton:**

Well the jury is probably out on that one isn't it? Or may be it isn't. Let me just ask you though, what sort of things do you think people might want talk about? I can imagine everybody will want to spend more on say, let's say the NHS. Everyone says we should spend more on the NHS but it's not just a question of spending more is it because it's where does the money come from?

**Jonquil Lowe:**

Well that's right. And I think it's kind of interesting because we've had the Coalition Government with perhaps more and more conservative flavour as time has gone on. And the rhetoric coming from the current government is very much that it's good to tax less and to balance the books we really have to cut public spending.

But I have to say that's a kind of ideological position because surely it's part of civilised society that you do spend public money to provide the things that people really need

like a health service. And you ensure that there is help for them for periods when perhaps they can't work, you know, for whatever reason. So may be we just have to decide, you know, do we buy in to taxes should be low? Or do we want to have the kind of social support that we might perhaps expect of a civilised society?

**Dave Middleton:**

Well, it's going to be a really fascinating Friday Thinker. Thanks very much Jonquil.

**Jonquil Lowe:**

Thank you Dave.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK, well good luck with the Friday Thinker and thanks very much for joining us.

**Jonquil Lowe:**

Thanks, great to talk to you.

**Dave Middleton:**

Well. That was really nice talking to Jonquil and the Friday Thinker is really worth getting involved in. If you haven't already been to the Friday Thinker page on the Faculty Facebook page, go now. And the Faculty Facebook page is about a lot more than the Friday Thinker. There's always activity on there. So get on there, press the Like button. If you keep pressing the Like button on things that are put up that will then become part of your feed. So do get on there.

And also if you could follow us @PodMag on Twitter and you'll get information.

**Karen Foley:**

Oh, I'm glad I'm back Dave. Were you just talking about my Twitter feed @KarenFoleyOU?

**Dave Middleton:**

No. I was talking about our PodMag.

**Karen Foley:**

Do you like my hair?

**Dave Middleton:**

Yes it looks very good.

**Karen Foley:**

Thanks.

**Dave Middleton:**

Are you sure you had to disappear to have your hair done for an online session? What is it we're doing tonight?

**Karen Foley:**

Activate.

**Dave Middleton:**

Right. And we're going to teach people about hairdressing?

**Karen Foley:**

No. No hairdressing I've been told. Yeah, tonight's Activate session online from 8 o'clock.

**Dave Middleton:**

And I hope everyone else isn't spending as much time getting ready. You don't need to. You can come along, it doesn't matter what your hair looks like because we're not going to see it, it's online. But do, if you're coming, try and have some sort of microphone so we can have a chat to you. We love to chat don't we Karen?

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah.

**Dave Middleton:**

Preferably to other people rather than each other and it will be great won't it.

Also if you haven't got a microphone don't let that stop you, because a bit like on the Student Hub Live and also the Students Connections Conference with the Chat Box and you can chat through there. So it's going to be really good fun.

**Karen Foley:**

Actually did you know you can access it from a mobile phone? Or from a tablet like an iPad.

**Dave Middleton:**

Really?

**Karen Foley:**

Brilliant isn't it?

**Dave Middleton:**

That's fabulous.

**Karen Foley:**

So that doesn't need to stop you. You could be in the pub and drop in and say, hi.

**Dave Middleton:**

Anyway that's all going to be happening tonight. So hopefully we will see you tonight. We may actually see you at the Activate session. We might hear from you at PodMag, the Twitter feed or through the email which is?

**Karen Foley:**

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

**Dave Middleton:**

And we'll be back next Monday with another PodMag.

**Karen Foley:**

Brilliant.

**Dave Middleton:**

It's so professional.

**Karen Foley:**

I know.

**Dave Middleton:**

I'm going to play the outro music now.

**Karen Foley:**

OK.

**Dave Middleton:**

I'm just using my slidey control here which has got outro written on.

**Karen Foley:**

You've got to show me how to use that because it does look quite cool. I bet I could do that. It doesn't look very hard.

**Dave Middleton:**

It's very technical.

**Karen Foley:**

Then I could do the show on my own.

**Dave Middleton:**

Anyway now what I can do, if you'd like to just tell us about what you know about psychology. I can use this control here to fade you out as I fade in the music. It's going to be really good.

**Karen Foley:**

Why on earth would you want to do that?

**Dave Middleton:**

I looked this up in the manual, it's called a cross fade. So just start talking.

**Karen Foley:**

Alright. So well I could talk about models of working memory for example. So we have various different ideas about working memory ...

***The PodMag***