

## **PodMag S2\_4 Nov 10**

### ***The PodMag***

#### **Karen Foley:**

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

#### **Dave Middleton:**

And I'm Dave Middleton. OK now we've got a lot on the show today so we've got a lot to get through. Now we're going to see if we can see get some guests in. We are now situated at our brand new studio. Isn't it swish?

#### **Karen Foley:**

It's going down very well, I must say. I think people are starting to take us seriously.

#### **Dave Middleton:**

Really?

#### **Karen Foley:**

With any luck ??? 00:00:29. with good reason.

#### **Dave Middleton:**

Well, that will probably stop once they here this 00:00:32. But there's a few people actually, I've noticed a few people wandering past our corridor. So we'll see if we can drag a few people in as we go.

#### **Karen Foley:**

Yeah.

#### **Dave Middleton:**

But before we do that I think we should do a bit of news.

#### **Karen Foley:**

Absolutely, lots of new going on. Do the jingle.

#### **Dave Middleton:**

So the first piece of news Karen?

#### **Karen Foley:**

The first piece of news is that we have a road show. So come to our road show which is at the Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. It is on 2<sup>nd</sup> December which is a Tuesday. At this day we're going to be giving you the chance to do a live Activate session which is basically like a brainstorm of really fun ideas which you either may choose to

follow up yourself or someone else might choose to follow up as well for the conference.

You'll be meeting an academic and you'll be doing a live PodMag. So lots of ways to sort of get a slice of the conference experience right from the heart of the university at Milton Keynes. And the whole day is free. So remember that's the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, email us at [podmag@open.ac.uk](mailto:podmag@open.ac.uk) if you'd like to come along.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK, on to our second piece of news.

And our second piece of news is the Activate sessions, OK? And you might be wondering what an Activate session is. If you have a look on the conference website which is Karen?

**Karen Foley:**

Connections.kmi.open.ac.uk

**Dave Middleton:**

She's doing well isn't she? You were going to find out what some previous people who had attended Activate sessions had to say about them. Because you asked you a group of students who had been regulars at the Activate sessions if they could describe what an Activate session was.

And an Activate session is where you come in, they're an hour, they're run by Karen and myself. Basically we talk to you about things that are of interest. And then we decide whether or not those things might be things that a more general interest for more people. And whether or not you might want to present at the conference, whether you'd like to buy 00:02:41 a blog piece for us or whether you just like coming along and chatting. It doesn't commit you to anything, 8 to 9. The next one is on November 10<sup>th</sup> and then there'll be another on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

OK, so that's two pieces of news and two big things that you can get involved in, the road show on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is a link on the website to actually sign up for the road show, so you can get that.

It's also on Twitter. We've put it up on Twitter and we will Retweet that. If you want to Retweet it as well so other people will know that's fine. And then on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and probably Mondays thereafter with one or two missing Activate Workshops live, 8 to 9pm.

Come along, have a chat with us if you've got a microphone, have a chat with us by text if you haven't. Just come along, meet some other students and basically have a bit of fun and talk about Social Science.

**Karen Foley:**

Right, that's been bit a long news. A long bit of news.

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah. I think that's Georgina walking past.

**Karen Foley:**

Oh yeah, let's go and nab her.

**Dave Middleton:**

Let's go and get Georgina.

**Karen Foley:**

She'll be really impressed with all this ??? 00:03:44

**Dave Middleton:**

I can't wait to show her.

OK. So while I send Karen off to look for some new curtains for our fabulous new studio I'm just wondering whilst I've just grabbed our next guest which is Georgina Blakeley.

Georgina, how are you today?

**Georgina Blakeley:**

I'm fine thank you Dave. Thank you for grabbing me in the corridor.

**Dave Middleton:**

Let's talk about what we have been doing today? Because you've come in to the studio today, you're going to do some recording.

**Georgina Blakeley:**

I'm very grateful that you're helping me to record the weekly audios that I'm doing for DD102.

**Dave Middleton:**

Ah, now what are they for? Why have you decided to do those audios?

**Georgina Blakeley:**

Well there's a number of reasons really. First of all I think it's nice for students to hear a friendly voice. And I think it's nice to kind of maintain that more personal and hopefully a friendly contact with students as the module progresses.

The other reason of course is that I think it's helpful for students just to have a very short reminder of what they should be focusing on every week. Because there is a danger that given all the huge variety of study material on the website that students can sometimes get a little lost as opposed to what exactly it is they should be focusing on.

Each audio is about two minutes long maximum. And students can download them so they can listen to them at any point and they can also read the transcript of course.

**Dave Middleton:**

That's brilliant isn't it? They can download the PodMag, they can download the Student Life, they can download your audio, put it all on a CD somewhere. Stick it in the car and just listen to it as they're driving along. How good is that?

**Georgina Blakeley:**

Exactly. Yeah, no that's great, it's a great idea.

**Dave Middleton:**

Brilliant. Well thanks very much for joining us today Georgina. Good luck with the audios and to all the DD102 students out there and from all the DD102 students I'm sure they're very grateful for what they're doing.

**Georgina Blakeley:**

Let's hope so.

**Dave Middleton:**

We'll see you again soon.

**Georgina Blakeley:**

OK thanks, bye.

**Dave Middleton:**

We've had a great chat today with Georgina, that was really useful wasn't it?

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah.

**Dave Middleton:**

And talking about DD102. We've got Paul Stevens, I'm going to phone him in a moment.

**Karen Foley:**

Oh brilliant.

**Dave Middleton:**

Are you going to be here for that?

**Karen Foley:**

I must nip out. Just to get the coffee machine sorted for our new students.

**Dave Middleton:**

Oh no that is urgent.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah.

**Dave Middleton:**

That is really urgent.

**Karen Foley:**

We're not getting the guests in without quality coffee though.

**Dave Middleton:**

No I think you're quite right. The coffee machine is what we need so we'll be working on that. But look who's just walked past. It's only Engin Isin.

**Karen Foley:**

I know, do you think you can grab him?

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah, let's go and get him.

**Engin Isin:**

Hello you two, how are you in here?

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah, do you like our new studio?

**Engin Isin:**

That's amazing. You're really well equipped. I mean it's very impressive. The last time they came in my office with just one small little recorder. And now the entire studio I must say you have here.

**Dave Middleton:**

Actually you are our next door neighbour now.

**Engin Isin:**

Yeah.

**Dave Middleton:**

I hope you're not the sort of person who complains about noise?

**Engin Isin:**

I think that's not going to be my complaint Dave.

**Karen Foley:**

So tell us Engin, you were involved in the last two Connections and we're just planning the next one for March 2015. And you sat and you watched a lot of the conference as well as obviously being one of our keynote talks. Can you sort of tell us your reflections on that whole experience?

**Engin Isin:**

Well for one thing it was really good to see the students. You don't get to really see or have interactions with students very often at the Open University. So it was really good to see them being involved, enjoying and to see us as part of the conference.

But also it was good to hear that. And what they think about, and what it means to be a student at the OU in general but also Social Sciences. So I found that very, very inspiring.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah. And of course one of your talks that you did was about being a citizen and the differences between being an online citizen or actually being there in person. And you used some widgets there. Did any of that surprise you in terms of some of the feedback that you had from actually doing that keynote talk?

**Engin Isin:**

No it wasn't surprising in terms of the results but I thought that it was a good interactive experience and I think the interest of students as well. It was a good experience.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah. I guess it's an odd thing, sort of presenting in a room with a very virtual audience, all at home, all typing a way, and you know sort of interacting with you. So it is quite unique in that respect isn't it?

**Engin Isin:**

In some ways it's unique but in some other ways, you know, we often call in the new technologies. But they also replicate with things that we already have been doing and we are familiar with.

So these technologies. I know there are new technology but also you shouldn't exaggerate their newness of it. Because they are already sort of helping us to do the things that we used to do and like doing.

**Karen Foley:**

And of course communication is one of the most fundamental and basic things and that's really what it all relates to isn't it?

**Engin Isin:**

Absolutely.

**Karen Foley:**

And just trying to use these technologies to encourage all of that.

**Engin Isin:**

Absolutely, to give the students.

**Karen Foley:**

Well thanks for popping in. I'm glad you're our neighbour now. So we'll be getting back on the PodMag to talk about the exciting work that you're doing at some point later. But thanks for popping in.

**Engin Isin:**

Thanks very much. It's a pleasure and I was just about to say the same thing as well, just any time you feel like popping in and asking me for a quick chat I'm happy to do that.

**Karen Foley:**

Ah, thank you.

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah, we will have you back every week actually, it will save us getting any other guests.

**Karen Foley:**

And you can have our coffee next week.

**Engin Isin:**

??? 00:08:59 definitely

**Dave Middleton:**

Thanks very Engin.

**Karen Foley:**

Oh thanks Engin, bye.

**Dave Middleton:**

Well I think this show's going very well.

**Karen Foley:**

It's going very well. People are very impressed, with the equipment. I think it's a bit of mess Dave, I mean, I'm still not happy with the ways things are looking around here. I think we need comfy chairs. How are we expecting people to relax?

Don't worry about, anyway ...

**Dave Middleton:**

Well I'm feeling a little bit overwhelmed by the amount of equipment. Let me make this phone call. Just to remind you, this is a Friday Thinker for the Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. So this coming Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> November and this will be Paul Stevens. Let me just see if I can just get Paul on the phone.

**Paul Stevens:**

It will be ??? 00:09:45 because that will have a retrospective effect on us.

**Dave Middleton:**

Right, that sounds fascinating. Now you're actually a bit of an expert on environmental issues, that's your research area isn't it?

**Paul Stevens:**

Yes. I'm looking at the psychological aspects of it. So looking at the kind of mental states we're in, all these different environments, the way we behave both in terms of ??? 00:10:07 mental behaviour, all ??? 00:10:09 in everyday life. Who are you when you are in different places?

**Dave Middleton:**

Well thanks very much for joining me this morning Paul. And good luck with the Friday Thinker.

**Paul Stevens:**

You're welcome.

**Dave Middleton:**

OK, we'll see you soon, bye now.

**Paul Stevensn:**

Bye, bye.

**Dave Middleton:**

Ah, that was Paul Stevens from the Psychology Department talking about this week's Friday Thinker, this week being the 14<sup>th</sup>. I know that that it's a bit confusing when we say this week and today, and it's obviously today when we're doing it, but it's not today by the time you come to listen to it because it could be ...



**Karen Foley:**

We're not having this conversation ??? 00:10:41.

**Dave Middleton:**

It's quite confusing isn't it? It's a sort of Dr Who timey rimey type thing, anyway.

Well it's good to see you back. Did you get the coffee machine?

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah, the coffee machine done, curtains done and I've brought in a pair of scissors and some pens and pencils.

**Dave Middleton:**

You're not allowed to have sharp objects.

**Karen Foley:**

I know, but we need to get all this wrapping off ??? 00:11:00 this stuff.

**Dave Middleton:**

I know we're going to get set up properly are we with that. It's been an action packed PodMag hasn't it?

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah, brilliant.

**Dave Middleton:**

Isn't it strange though how being in a professional studio setting has made absolutely no difference to how amateur we sound?

**Karen Foley:**

I know. But they've put us on a media training course so hopefully that should sort things out.

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah. I wished they'd have asked us about that before they actually did it.

**Karen Foley:**

It looked like a warrant didn't it? The invitation.

**Dave Middleton:**

Well yes, you are commanded to attend.

**Karen Foley:**

Yeah, love the Dean. I mean ...

**Dave Middleton:**

I did like the kisses at the end.

Anyway that's it for this week from PodMag. We hoped you've enjoyed listening to us. We will be back next week. Don't forget the Activate sessions, Monday night, 7 to 9. They take place on November 10<sup>th</sup>, if you've missed that one November 17<sup>th</sup>. Don't worry if you've missed them, they're not a series of anything. You just come in.

**Karen Foley:**

And jump in and out as you wish.

**Dave Middleton:**

Yeah. And you can stay for the whole hour, you can stay for 10 minutes or as some people do you can stay the whole day.

We look forward to seeing you. Don't forget the road show December 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can still sign up for that if you're in the Milton Keynes area in particular.

**Karen Foley:**

Absolute. Alright, well, until next week, see you next time.

**Dave Middleton:**

Thanks very much.

***The PodMag***