

The role of personal characteristics and environmental elements in sustaining and shaping empathic experiences

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WORKSHOP MODE

In-person.

OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

In recent years, more and more researchers and educators have noted the important role of empathy in engineering practice. Considering the importance of empathy for engineers, there is an ongoing discussion around various educational activities and contexts where engineering students can experience or improve their empathy. However, to integrate empathic experiences into the engineering curriculum, it is essential to understand the role of contextual elements in impacting empathy and explore how personal characteristics shape empathy. One of the contexts where engineering students have a chance to experience empathy is entrepreneurship. This workshop will present the model of empathy formed during the phenomenological study of the phenomenon of engineering students' empathy participating in entrepreneurial programs. This workshop aims to demonstrate to participants the complexity of this phenomenon and generate and share practical recommendations that can be used to incorporate empathy into entrepreneurial engineering subjects or programs, considering the role of personal characteristics and environmental elements in sustaining and shaping empathic experiences.

ACTIVITIES

In this workshop, through group-facilitated discussion, participants will have the chance to immerse themselves in the experiences of others using the proposed facilitators' recommendations and understand what phases and facets form this phenomenon. Also, after immersing themselves in the experiences of others, workshop participants will discuss the role of personal characteristics and elements that have an impact on empathy experiences and further, considering the personal experience of empathy, participants and facilitators will reflect on how empathy as a complex phenomenon can be integrated with the engineering curriculum.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Researchers and educators from any discipline interested in integrating empathy into their educational activities are welcome to participate. No prior knowledge is needed to participate in this workshop.

OUTCOMES

It is expected that upon completion of this workshop, participants will gain a wider understanding of the phenomenon of empathy, understand the role of personal characteristics and environmental elements in sustaining and shaping empathic experiences, discuss how empathy can be integrated into their current programs and educational activities and share personal experiences of incorporating empathy into educational activities.

KEYWORDS

Empathy, entrepreneurship, engineering education.

PRESENTERS' BACKGROUNDS

Aleksandr Litvinov is a PhD candidate at UTS with a research focus on empathy in engineering.