

CALLOUT FOR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:
USING IMAGES IN LECTURES: CATCHING THE PICTORIAL TURN

Our students have grown up in an era more visual than any previous generation; it's a truism that a picture paints a thousand words and yet HE lectures remain text-centric.



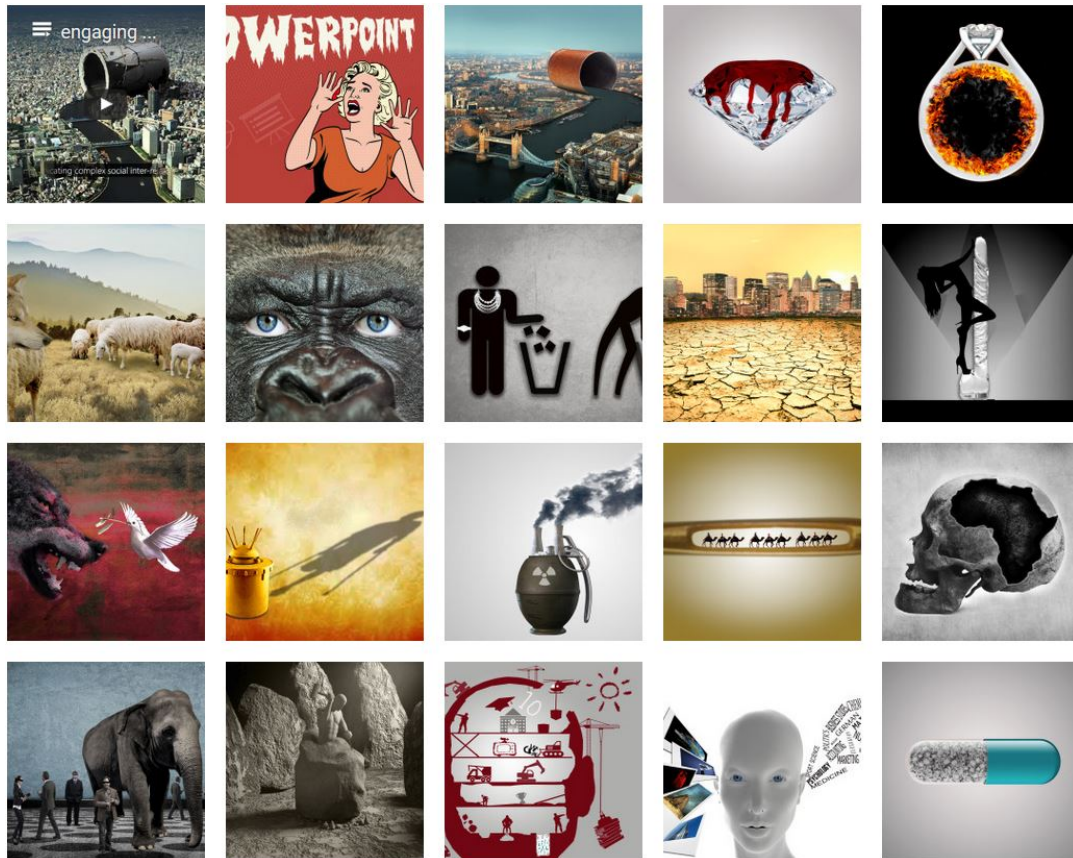
This is an invitation to come to Loughborough university for a half day to have a look at and discuss a visual teaching method I've developed and tested here on students, which has led to meaningfully-improved student engagement and understanding. You can see a short overview [here](#).



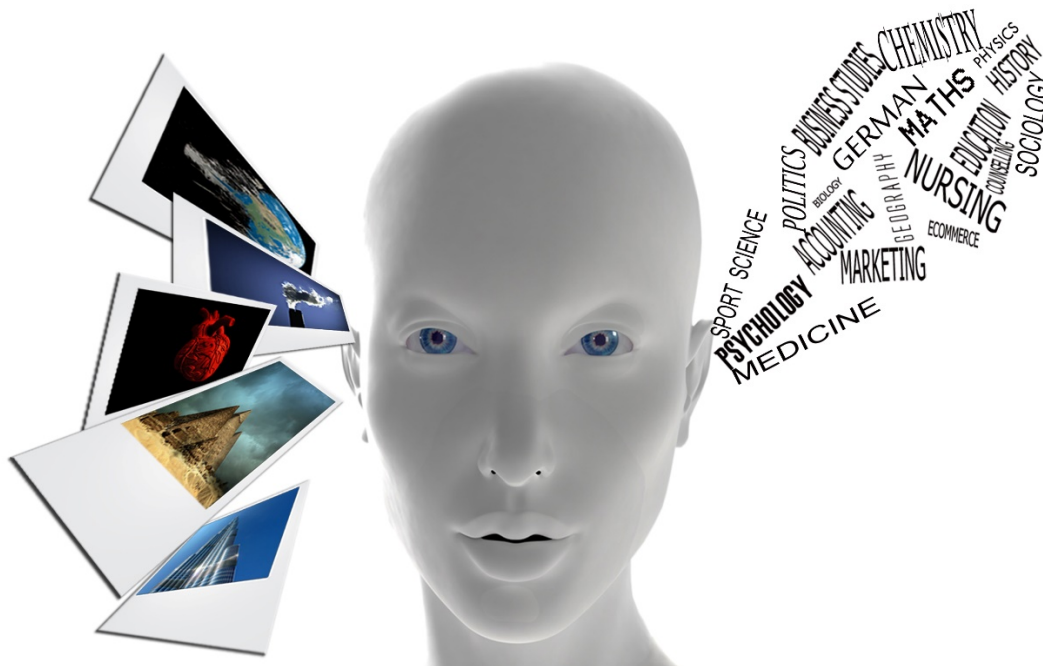
The intention, as a Community of Practice (CoP), is to discuss, critique and share new practice and develop a bid for funding to develop and test this visual method further, at your own institutions, in academic year 2016-2017.



The method privileges high-quality, full slide images above text-heavy slides (text can be put in 'notes view'). Larger examples can be seen [here](#).



The method has worked well in control group tests at Loughborough. The literature suggests this is because it exploits cognitive 'dual' processing innate to all sighted people.



It reduces wasteful overload of our short-term memory and simultaneously engages under-used visual processing capacity



It seems also beneficial to dyslexic students, who we've specifically tested.



We are looking for colleagues from a diversity of institutions to see if this method works well beyond Loughborough students. If you're interested in attending an informal half-day session at Loughborough university before July, where I will briefly outline what I've been doing and share the test results, please email me at d.roberts@lboro.ac.uk by **May 20th2016** I'll propose some dates once I know who's interested in attending. Tea and biscuits provided 😊

I'll also demonstrate a simple, free, web-based research tool we [developed](#) to include and engage distance learners and other students sometimes excluded from pedagogic research.

The purpose of the meeting is to see if you'd like to empirically test the visual lecturing approach in your own institutions



If so, we'll discuss how that can happen. The data we develop will underpin a range of publishing opportunities and perhaps impact case studies as well. Below are a few ways that might work; bring your own ideas.

- a. You might create a short image-based presentation on the topic of your choice and give it to students at your own institution (mirroring my own methods), after which they complete an online survey regarding engagement and understanding. You might expand the survey questions as you see fit.
- b. You might disseminate a web-based research tool through your own student communities, which students then view and respond to online within a fixed time-frame.
- c. You might create a short image-based presentation on the topic of your choice and place it on a home-made website linked to a survey, like [this](#) one
- d. You might create a different approach able to generate appropriate data

If you're interested, I think there's a lot of scope to benefit in terms of research outputs and best practice, especially with TEF on the horizon, whatever form it takes. Email me if you are, **by 20th May 2016**; ring for a chat if you like, my number's at the bottom.



Best wishes and thanks for reading

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