Designing our future professional development space for new modes and pedagogies
This semester some Universities are welcoming faculty and students back to campus after a year of online learning.
What have we learnt after a year of online professional development?
Our context
The University of Hong Kong (HKU)

- English-medium, research-led, large comprehensive university
- Extends across Hong Kong and Greater Bay Area
- 10 Faculties (~32,000 students)
- Student profile:
  - UG (76% local secondary schools)
  - PG (41% from Mainland China)
- Staff profile:
  - Academic (~8,000)
  - 52% professoriate staff
Centre for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CETL)

- Central unit - enhance the quality of the teaching and learning
- Core activities:
  - professional development
  - programs (academic staff and research postgraduate students)
  - seminars, and workshops
Challenging years (2019 – 2021)

- Dec 2019 moved online (social unrest)
- Jan 2020 continued online (COVID-19)
- Sep 2020 started dual-mode/hybrid (3 weeks only)
- Sep 2021 return to campus
Event registrations (2018 - 2021)

- 2018-19: 1522 Registrants (100% F2F)
- 2019-20: 3137 Registrants (~70% Online)
- 2020-21: 6036 Registrants (100% Online)
The learning space (2018)
Challenges of 2019–2021

- Limitation of fixed furniture
- Environmental factors
- Not built for dual/hybrid/hyflex
The Project Team

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The remit
HKSAR showcase learning space

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Our goal

- To cater to future hybrid PD i.e., distributed over locations and modalities
Our operating principles

- flat
- flexible
- interactive
Agency

a spatially distributed practice that includes the larger material arrangements

(Barad 2007)
Relational agency

a dynamic interaction between engaging with others’ interpretations and the integration of these into your own decision-making.

(Arnesen, Arnesen & Elstad 2021)
New material agency

*a relational dynamic between students, teachers and non-human phenomena*  
(Charteris and Smardon 2018)
Learning spaces re-design
Modalities

- Seminar/ Lecture Mode (Hybrid)
- Conference Mode
- Collaborative Mode (Hybrid)
What is out there?
What we imagine
Current progress
Large Screen Affordances
Large Screen Affordances
Supporting Hybrid Interactions
Supporting Hybrid Interactions
What’s keeps me excited?

- New modes of teaching
- Experimenting with the space
- Sharing our progress