

Welcoming new UK lecturers to the UK Computer Science Education Community

Abstract

A vibrant Computer Science Education (CSE) Community of Practice is emerging in the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland, promoted by specialist interest groups (ACM and BCS) and Computer Science Practice and Research conferences. This community supports the development needs of established academics with a passion for Computer Science Education. This workshop explores how this emerging community of practice addresses the needs of new academics and what further opportunities there are to seek to include new academics as part of the community.

The complex and contested demands of teaching in higher education make the early career of an academic is challenging. Early career academic work can be lonely [1]. New Academics learn how to balance research, learning, teaching and service commitments [4]. In terms of learning and teaching development in the United Kingdom (UK), developmental work commonly involves working towards Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy [2] either by direct application or by a university provided course. Typically, this is supported by mentoring from within a department. The quality of learning provided in a department will be promoted in part by the strength of the Community of practice operating within the department [3] and the communities of practice that exist at a national and international level [4].

The workshop will ask attendees to participate in a qualitative research exercise the goal of which will be to shape and development of a proposal. In particular, addressing:

1. What is the background and previous career experience of new CS lecturers?
2. What current opportunities are there to welcome new CS lectures to the national CSE community of practice
3. What further opportunities are there to welcome new CS lectures to the national CSE community of practice

4. What is the potential to supplement university / departmental development opportunities with national developmental opportunities?

The workshop has not run before and is consists of 2 hours, on-line remote activity. Early career computer science lecturers (or those about to embark upon a lecturing career) are encouraged to attend. Established academics who are perhaps managing a Department and thinking about the career development needs of their staff are also welcome.

A new academic attending would gain a better appreciation for the opportunities there are to engage and obtain support from the computer science education community. Experienced academics would gain a better appreciation for the professional development needs of their peers. All participants will have the opportunity to help shape a proposal for enhanced support for new academics.

CCS Concepts: • Social and professional topics → Computing education.

Keywords: computer science education, community, induction

ACM Reference Format:

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