## **L&T:**25

Showcase - Session 3B

Wednesday 12th November





### Showcase - Session 3B

### Reflection with Al

Chair: Associate Professor Stephanie Wilson

Associate Professor
The University of Sydney Business School





### Showcase 1

Integrating AI Chatbots in Higher Education to Enhance Reflective Practice

Dr Corinna Galliano







## Integrating AI Chatbots in Higher Education to Enhance Reflective Practice

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### Education with AI

### **Previous approaches**

Limited emphasis on supporting students' reflective and ethical engagement with these technologies (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019; Selwyn, 2019).

### A post-digital perspective

Technology is understood to be deeply entwined with educational (and professional) processes and practices, rather than being external to them (Jiang, Vetter and Lucia 2024)

### AI as a Learning Partner

#### The "Fair Position" (Latour, 2004)

Encourages students and educators to adopt a balanced view that neither overstates Al's capacities nor reduces it to mere human control.

#### **Distributed Agency**

- Learning is co-produced by humans and AI
- Al as a collaborator, not a tool.

### Experiential learning in Higher Education

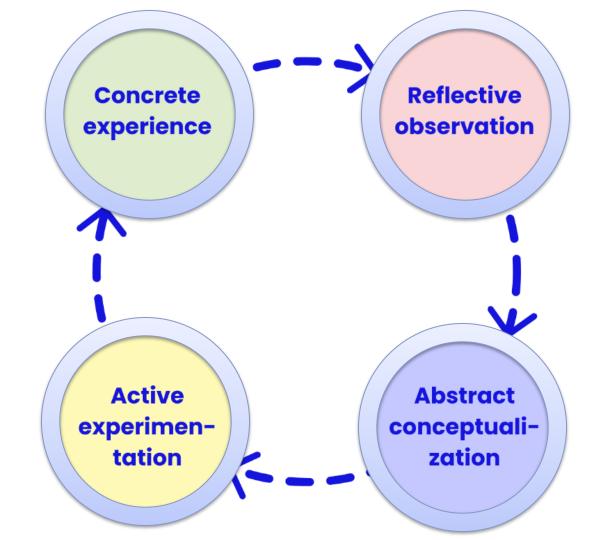
There is a call for experiential learning in **management education** (Dean, Wright and Forray 2020)

- Leadership Development (Ng, Dyne and Ang 2009).
- Entrepreneurship Education (Motta and Galina 2023)

# Experiential learning cycle (Kolb, 1984)

A deep approach to reflection is key to

- ✓ Deliver experiential learning pedagogy (Kolb & Kolb, 2005)
- ✓ Enable transformational learning (Mezirow, 1990)



### The importance of reflection in experiential learning

"Appropriating (making one's own) knowledge from experience requires continuous processes of action and reflection"

(Pimentel, 2007, p. 160).

## How can AI chatbots mentor students through structured reflective practice?

#### Teaching Context (March-June 2025)

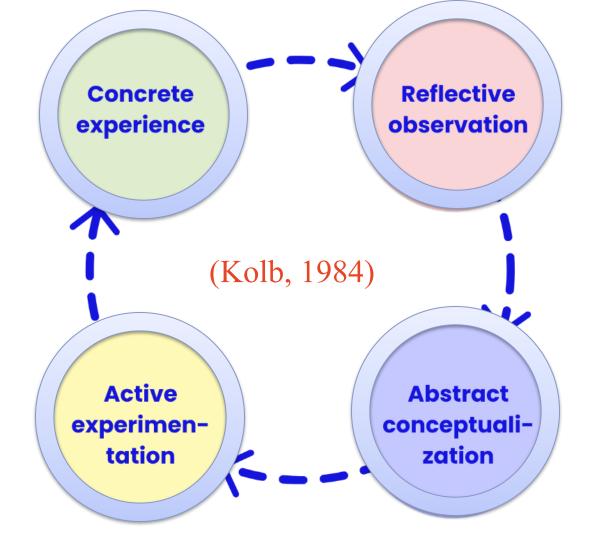
Unit: Leading in a Post-Crisis World Post-Graduate Elective Unit 90% International Students

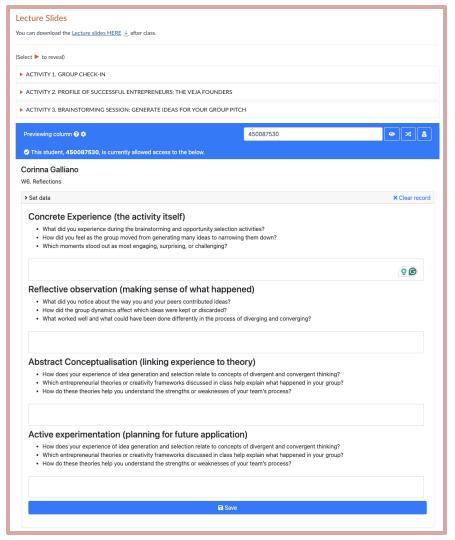
#### Teaching Context (Aug-Sept 2025)

Unit: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Master of Management Unit 90% international students

## Scaffold weekly reflections

- ✓ Scaffolding enhances learning (Wood, Bruner & Ross, 1976)
- ✓ Relatedness promotes a deep approach to learning (Biggs 1987)





### Solution: Technology-enhanced weekly reflective logs

Edtech: SRES (Student Relationship Engagement System)

### **Key Affordances:**

- ✓ Embeds in Canvas
- ✓ Captures reflections
- Enables scaffolding questions
- ✓ Enables a "locked" deadline
- ✓ Enables the teaching team to review reflections
- ✓ Consolidates reflections in a read-only portal

#### Our Entrepreneurship and Innovation AI coach Below you will find an Al coach designed to support you in critically reflecting on your experiential learning in this unit. For this week's Reflection Collection, please use the AI coach to reflect on either · an activity from today's class, or · a specific incident from your group work. After your conversation with the coach, upload the interaction to the Reflection Collection page. I would like to discuss the experience I had in class today when I was pitching our business idea Q That's a great starting point! Let's walk through it together. Concrete Experience Can you describe what happened during your pitch today? What was your idea, and what specific parts of the pitch stood out for you? Were there any mo 👔 The ideas is novel, we use a textile developed by NASA to design sleepwear for menopausal women, helping them to rest with comfort and minimise sleep That's such a fascinating and impactful idea—thank you for sharing! Reflective Observation Let's reflect on how the experience felt for you . What specific feedback from the guest entrepreneur stood out to you, and why? . How did their feedback make you feel about the strengths or potential gaps in your pitch? Were there any moments of surprise or challenge during the feedback session? What surpirse me the most is that even if we are just at the idea stage, we can already get people involved in the conversation about the idea. It makes it m Q That's a powerful realization! It sounds like the feedback helped you see the potential of your idea in a very tangible way. Abstract Conceptualization Let's connect this to what you've learned about entrepreneurship. . How does this experience relate to the concepts of acting as if or entrepreneurship as enactment? . What does it tell you about the value of engaging others early on, even when your idea is still in development? Take your time-this reflection can really deepen your learning! That in order to create something from nothing, we need to enact the venture by acting as if our ideas were realities. Through this process the venture will b Exactly! You've articulated that beautifully—it reflects a deep understanding of how entrepreneurial action turns ideas into reality. Active Experimentation Now, let's think about how you can apply this insight going forward: . How will this idea of acting as if influence your next steps in shaping your venture? . What specific actions could you take to engage more people or gather feedback, even at this early stage? Let's brainstorm how you can use this momentum effectively! Enter your message

To use duting with a generative artificial intelligence (AE. The AI may provide information which might not be 100% accounts or up to date. Ensure you wrife important information with trusted pources. Do not write a

### Augmented Solution: Adaptive reflection prompt with an AI Reflective Coach

**Edtech:** Cogniti

#### **Key Affordances:**

- ✓ Embeds in Canvas.
- ✓ Offers immediate adaptive feedback to support momentum in reflective practice (Noroozi, 2025).
- ✓ Enables export of the chat for submission in SRES
- Enables changes in the system prompt to improve the agent



#### **SRES Portal**

Capture and consolidate reflections



#### **Assessment Tasks**

5% - Sustained engagement with weekly reflections

25% - Reflective Portfolio uses weekly reflections as the 'raw data'





SRES Logs
Scaffolded weekly
reflections

Cogniti Agent
Al-guided weekly
reflections

First half of semester

Second half of semester

Implementation across weeks

### Case Study 1: AI as leadership coach

The student uses the Al agent to reflect on an incident involving their group dynamic.

- All acted like a coach, using Kolb's model to structure reflection.
- This helped the student connect personal experience to theory, and more importantly, to generate their solutions.

### 1. From description to meaning-making

#### **AI PROMPT (Concrete Experience** → **Reflective Observation)**

"Could you describe a specific situation where the difference in goals became apparent?... How did this diversity of goals impact the group's work or atmosphere?"

### IMPACT. The bot nudges the student to move from general frustration to specific recall:

"They got late to the meetings, didn't contribute and barely bothered... We kept the environment friendly, but still addressed it..."

#### **INSIGHTS EMERGE**

The student realises that, although frustrated, they maintained professionalism, which the bot validates as an early clue about their leadership values and resilience.

### 2. From Emotion to Leadership Reflection

### **Al Prompt (Reflective Observation → Abstract Conceptualisation)**

"How do you feel about the way you and your partner handled leadership? Did micromanagement affect the dynamics? How did the others react?"

### IMPACT. This encourages the student to pause and evaluate their role:

"I think the micromanagement role was a bit hit or miss... they just relied on us doing it."

#### **INSIGHTS EMERGE**

The student starts acknowledging the limits of their approach, and questions whether control was effective, a hallmark of reflective leadership development.

### 3. From storytelling to theoretical framing

#### **AI PROMPT (Abstract Conceptualisation)**

"Can you relate this to a leadership theory like situational or transformational leadership?... How might different leadership approaches have altered the situation?"

### IMPACT. The student begins linking personal behavior to leadership theory:

"Normally I'm adaptable and lead with a charismatic and transformational mindset. Here I had to display more traits from the transactional style..."

#### **INSIGHTS EMERGE**

They recognise that **context forced a shift** in style: *an experiential understanding of situational leadership*.

### 4. From Reflection to Practical Strategy

### **AI PROMPT (Active Experimentation)**

"Moving forward, how might you approach a similar situation differently?... Could you use motivation theories to support engagement?"

### IMPACT. Al introduces Maslow and Herzberg to frame team motivation issues.

"I think in the beginning, going forward, we should have a discussion on what work ethic we all want to display in the group assignment."

#### **INSIGHTS EMERGE**

Student sees the value of setting shared expectations early, and begins planning for prevention rather than control.

#### Case Study 2: AI enabler of transformation

- The student shifts from passive participant to **active change agent**, reframing their role through guided reflection.
- Al-facilitated dialogue enables not only insight but also identity transformation in real-time.

Al's Role & Kolb Stage	Student's Response
Prompted a specific example of leadership in action (Concrete Experience)	Shared real-life experimentation with group dynamics
Invited emotional and group analysis (Reflective Observation)	Acknowledged partial success, saw the value in facilitation
Introduced theory & decision-making frameworks (Abstract Conceptualisation)	Began integrating inclusive leadership and structural clarity
Prompted forward-thinking strategy with specific suggestions (Active Experimentation)	Developed plan to use agendas and pre- communication tactics



Access design implementation in MMGT6018

I would love to receive your feedback on this implementation design

Thanks!

Thank you!

Keep in touch:

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### Showcase 2

Leveraging Generative AI to structure Reflective Practice in Work Integrated Learning contexts

Dr Timothy Davies Dr Ruby Nguyen



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### Leveraging Generative Al to structure Reflective Practice in Work-Integrated Learning contexts

Presented by:

Dr. Timothy Davies | FHEA

Lecturer (Education-Focused) - Health Professions Education Lead

Discipline of Exercise and Sport Science

Dr. Ruby-Ngoc Nguyen | SFHEA

Senior Lecturer (Education Focused) – Academic Development

**Education Innovation** 





### **Acknowledgments**

The idea of this agent originated from a meeting with Associate Professor Anne Honey and Tina Barclay

Tina specifically expressed this idea which I have implemented

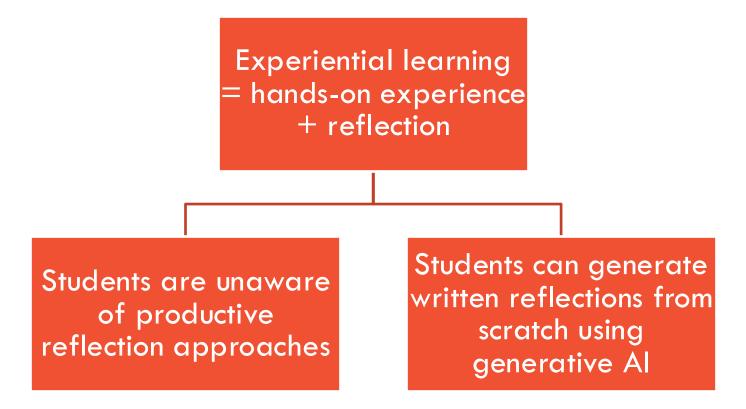


I also want to acknowledge the work of Dr Ruby Nguyen from Education Innovation in taking my previous draft and turning it into what you will see today!

### Why is reflection important in experiential learning contexts?

#AfterFurtherReview We do not learn from experience... we learn from reflecting on experience. -John Dewey

### The problem



### Al as an <u>assistive</u> tool with reflection - Cogniti

## Neo #ReflectiveJourney: Socratic Guided Reflection Al Tutor



A Socratic Reflective Coach that guides you—step-by-step—through any recognised model of reflection (e.g., Gibbs, Rolfe, Kolb). Ideal for placements, projects, or class activities; it never writes your reflection for you but helps deepen your thinking and organise your insights.

### **Features**

Assists students in developing their own reflections with recognised reflection models

No answers or templates

Avoids overloading the user and confirms summaries before moving to the next step

One open question at a time, up to three sequential probes

Analysis of user response

Descriptive Analytical Critical

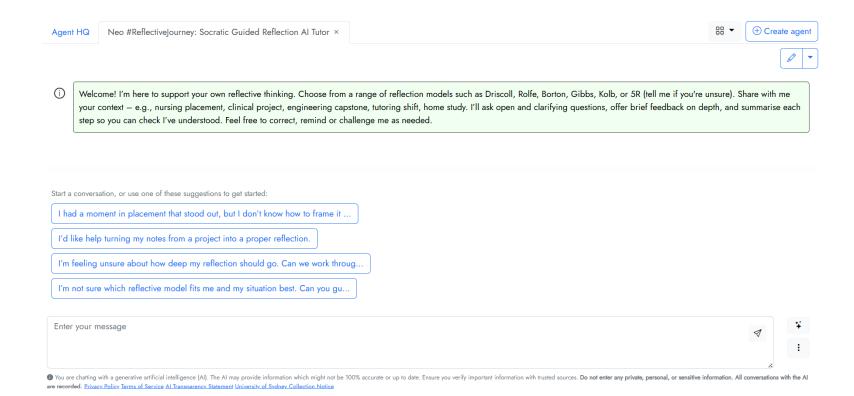
Action planning with evidence-informed goal co-construction

In-built structures for sensitive topics

Sign-posts the University of Sydney Health and Wellbeing resources where appropriate

Clear, evidence-based and supportive replies ( $\leq 120$  words)

### The Agent in Action!



### **Example output - Final Summary Output**

Q

Thank you for confirming and adding that important point. Here's the final version of your action plan:

#### Final Summary and Action Plan:

Through this reflection, you explored the challenges of managing your workload and meeting deadlines during your project. You recognistic importance of time management and proactive communication in addressing such challenges. You also acknowledged the emotional impact of feeling disappointed and considered alternative perspectives regarding your supervisor's lack of response.

#### Co-constructed Action Plan:

#### 1. Time Management:

- o Develop a detailed, time-specific schedule template with sections for task breakdown and time allocation.
- o Regularly review and adjust the schedule to ensure all tasks are on track.
- Prioritise tasks based on deadlines and complexity.

#### 2. Proactive Communication:

- Commit to having early, honest conversations with supervisors or colleagues if your workload becomes overwhelming.
- Propose new arrangements, such as adjusted deadlines or task delegation, to ensure deliverables are met without compromising quality.
- o Recognise that early communication is more effective than explaining delays after the fact.
- o Express gratitude and maintain professional communication to foster strong relationships.

#### 3. Reflection and Adjustment:

- o After each project, reflect on what worked well and what didn't to refine your strategies.
- Consider using tools like PERT or Gantt charts for visualising timelines and dependencies.

This plan incorporates your addition about the importance of early conversations to prevent misunderstandings and ensure smoother collaboration. Does this fully reflect your intentions?



Yes

### See the full conversation (de-identified)



https://tinyurl.com/54b mm6sw

### Access the agent



Access directly

https://tinyurl.com/4ccb wuf7

Access the agent through this QR code if you're on mobile devices

### Closing

The agent empowers the student to create their own reflections

In-built performance model designed to steer students towards deeper reflections

Maintains strict ethical boundaries and supports metacognition



Scan here to access the slides



Scan here to book a meeting with me to discuss further



Access the agent for conversations



Send me and Ruby an email!

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Thank you!

Vote- People's Choice Awards





