

Your place or mine: transnational education and the locus of control

Peter Ling

Swinburne University, Melbourne Australia
pling@swin.edu.au

Beena Giridharan

Curtin University Sarawak, Miri, Malaysia
Beena@curtin.edu.my

Margaret Mazzolini

Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia
Margaret.Mazzolini@vu.edu.au

Shelley Yeo

Curtin University, Perth, Australia
S.Yeo@curtin.edu.au

Veronica Goerke

Curtin University, Perth, Australia
V.Goerke@curtin.edu.au

Gillian Lueckenhausen

Melbourne, Australia
Glueckenhausen64@gmail.com

In transnational education the place – in both an organisational and a geographic sense – in which educational decisions are made impacts on the academics involved and on student learning. The subject of this paper is learning and accreditation that takes place outside a home university through offshore branch campuses. A case study of two Australian Universities with offshore campuses in Sarawak, Malaysia was undertaken. Policies and procedures were reviewed and an empirical study of the experiences of academics involved was conducted. The study focused on who makes decisions about curriculum content, learning and teaching activities, design and provision of educational resources, and the assessment of student work. Consequences of the organisational relationships for academics involved and for student learning are examined in this paper. On the basis of the study a high degree of local control is recommended, at least for units of study that have operated transnationally several times.