

Participant Information Sheet for people attending the Pedagogies of Hope in Higher Education online Symposium 2026

Research Project: Seeding and Socialising Hope in Online Higher Education: Guiding Learners and Educators Through Uncertain times

As a symposium attendee, you are invited to take part in the research project described below, conducted by researchers at Massey University in Aotearoa New Zealand and Michigan State University in the United States.

Please read this information before deciding whether to participate in the research. You are welcome to attend the symposium whether or not you actively contribute research data.

Who is involved in this research project?

This research is being conducted by researchers from Massey University, Aotearoa New Zealand, and Michigan State University, USA, who together form the Hope Collective:

- Massey University: A/P Alice Beban, A/P Elaine Khoo, Dr Clare M. Mouat, and Dr Lisa Vonk
- Michigan State University: A/P Amanda Flaim and A/P Daniel Ahlquist

Why is the research being conducted?

The converging crises of climate change, COVID-19, poverty and war are changing people's lives and shaping their experiences of the present and their possibilities for the future. While there is increasing research and discussion about climate anxiety, uncertainty and hopelessness among university students, there has been less research into hope and hope-related approaches to transforming higher education teaching, learning and educational practice. This project brings together the Hope Collective to develop a research platform and an international community of practice focused on pedagogies of hope in higher education. You can find out more about our research agenda through the [Hope in Higher Education - Massey University](#) website. One current phase of the project is an international online symposium, *Pedagogies of Hope in Higher Education*. The symposium provides an opportunity for educators, researchers and others interested in higher education to share ideas and experiences about hope.

What parts of the symposium are included in the research?

Different parts of the symposium involve research in different ways.

Asynchronous discussion forums: The symposium website includes discussion forums associated with the participant contributions and symposium themes. Anyone may view and read these forums. If you choose to post in a forum, you will be shown a short research consent statement before making your first post. You will need to actively consent before you are able to contribute. Forum posts made by consenting participants may be analysed as part of the research and may be used, in de-identified form, in research publications, presentations, teaching resources and other scholarly or educational outputs. Because posts in the discussion forums are publicly accessible, a distinctive verbatim quotation could potentially be traced back to the original post through an online search. Where necessary, we will therefore paraphrase contributions rather than reproduce distinctive wording. You do not need to post in the forums in order to take part in the symposium. You are welcome to read the discussions without contributing.

Because the forums are publicly viewable, other people visiting the symposium website will also be able to read what you post. You can choose whether to post under your own name or anonymously. Please

do not include private or confidential information, or identifying information about students, colleagues or other third parties.

Live Zoom symposium sessions: Live Zoom sessions will also form part of the research. When you register for a live session, you will be asked to provide affirmative consent for any oral or chat contributions you subsequently choose to make to be included in the research. You are welcome to attend and listen without speaking or posting in the chat. If you do not contribute, you do not generate research data. Live sessions may be recorded, including spoken discussion and chat, so that contributions can be transcribed and analysed, and included in research outputs in anonymised form.

What will happen to the information I provide?

The research team will analyse symposium discussion material thematically alongside other data from the wider project. Research findings may be used in journal articles, books or book chapters, conference presentations, teaching resources, open-access educational resources and other scholarly outputs. In research outputs, names, institutional affiliations and other identifying details will be removed.

Are there any risks or disadvantages?

We expect the research to involve no more than minimal risk. Participants may discuss institutional pressures, difficult teaching experiences or other challenging aspects of higher education, and some conversations may involve professional or emotional discomfort. You decide whether and how much you contribute. You do not have to contribute to discussion, and you may stop contributing or leave a live session at any time. All official symposium spaces will operate under the symposium Code of Conduct and will be facilitated by members of the research team.

What happens to the information collected?

Research data will be stored securely on password-protected university systems and will be retained and securely deleted in accordance with Massey University research data requirements and applicable university policies.

Can I withdraw?

You may choose not to contribute, or stop contributing, at any time. If you later wish to withdraw a contribution from the research, please contact the research team as soon as possible. We will remove it where this is reasonably practicable and before it has been incorporated into completed analysis or research outputs. Because discussion forum posts are publicly viewable, withdrawing a contribution from the research dataset does not necessarily remove copies or references that may already have been seen or retained by others online.

Who can I contact?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the Hope Collective:
hopeinhighered@gmail.com

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by Massey University (400030923) in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. Any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics Office at Massey University by emailing humanethics@massey.ac.nz. All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.