Integrating Digital, Social, and Physical Spaces to Explore Student Experience in Higher Education

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Abstract:

Higher education is marked by increased student expectations for active engagement, co-

creation, and immersive experiences that support interaction with peers and instructors across

diverse platforms and modalities. This study explores the cognitive, emotional, sensory, and

social responses students exhibit to teaching methods and classroom activities within digital,

social, and physical spaces. Furthermore, it examines how these responses manifest during the

interaction between these educational spaces. Using the critical incident technique, we

analysed 188 memorable experiences reported by students. The findings indicate that

integrating multiple educational spaces can foster richer and more positive learning

experiences.

Keywords: student experience, servicescapes, critical incident technique

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