9fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

9th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

You can do statistics! Challenging students’ mindset and preconceived perception of statistics through a multi-pronged approach.

Maire Gorman

In this presentation I will describe the interventions undertaken in developing students confidence in their ability to formulate and apply statistical tests to their discipline within the graduate school module PGM1010. This year this module had over 60 students registered across the departments of criminology, psychology, politics, physics and IBERS undertaking both post graduate taught and research programmes.

From previous experience it was known that students, particularly those from social sciences background, often struggle with statistics and hence have low self-belief in their ability to conquer the subject and potentially negative perceptions of what the actual core skills required actually are. These are often rooted in negative experiences of studying mathematics at school.

Through the use of pre-recorded material, interactive activities using mentimeter, weekly quizzes and weekly discussions on mindset I worked to tackle these perceptions. The module this year was designed to be fully flexible to cater for all individual student scenarios (on campus/off campus) giving the ever-changing situations we found ourselves in.

In this presentation I will present quantitative results demonstrating the increase in student performance and changes in mindset and also qualitative results from bespoke survey administered.