University of Stirling and **sport**scotland

Coaching Symposium, 20 Nov 2024: Exploring Coaching Practice

Initial Programme (May 2024)

**Overview**

Following on from the 2023 Symposium, and in partnership with **sport**scotland, the University is delighted to be hosting our next Coaching Symposium this November. Given the feedback received last year, this years’ event will be a collective exploration of coaching practice.

Join us for a unique symposium specifically aimed at practising sport coaches and Sport Governing Body staff, where we aim to explore and make sense of the different aspects of sport coaching practice with leading thinkers from industry and academia.

**Conference Kick Off**

Circles that are Difficult to Square: Wicked Problems and Sport Coaching**.** *Wicked Problems* are multi-faceted problems that seem impossible to solve. There may be too many moving parts to make sense of; there may be too many factors at work to resolve. There may be many perspectives, making it difficult to get a clear view from *anywhere.* It is said that every wicked problem can be seen as the symptom of another [wicked] problem. This session will propose that sport coaching has its wicked problems, introduced as provocations that connect to the themes of the conference programme ahead.

**Closing Keynote:** Dr Anna Stodter, Senior Lecturer, Carnegie School of Sport at Leeds Beckett University

A person with blonde hair wearing a yellow shirt

Description automatically generated Anna is a senior lecturer in sport coaching within the Carnegie School of Sport. Her research interests in sport coaches' learning and education inform both her teaching and applied practice as a coach and coach developer. Anna's main research focus lies in the processes and impacts of coach learning, coach education and coach development. Her PhD research, completed at Loughborough University, adopted mixed methods and grounded theory to generate an evidence-informed process that explains how coaches learn.

This keynote will consider coach learning and, importantly, how we can become more critical in our interacting with ideas and concepts in coaching. It will also offer a practical view on frameworks and processes as to how coaches can develop reliable filters.

**Workshops:** Two practical opportunities to explore coaching themes (see table below for options)

**Programme Detail**

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| Wed 20 Nov. | Programme | Location |
| Before 1000 | Arrive University of Stirling, coffee in the Atrium (various food outlets available) | Atrium/Andrew Miller Building |
| 1000 | Symposium Welcome  (University of Stirling and **sports**cotland) | |
| 1015 | Circles That Are Difficult to Square: Wicked Problems in Sport Coaching. | |
| 1115-1145 | Tea/coffee provided – aim to be at your workshop location by 1140 | |
| 1145-1245 | Workshop #1  Can Building Quality Relationships Deliver Quality Performances? | |
| Workshop #2  Black Boxes, Grey Areas, and White Lies: How Might We Navigate Conflicts in High-Performance Sport? | |
| Workshop #3  Cutting Ties: Developing Independent Decision Makers in Team Sport | |
| Workshop #4  Coaching Well: What Does Ethical Coaching Practice Actually Look Like? | |
| Workshop #5  Why Cynicism Matters: The Prevalence of Pseudoscientific Ideas in Sport Coaching | |
| Workshop #6:  Getting on the Same Page: How Shared Mental Models Influence Team Cohesion | |
| Workshop #7:  Walking the Tightrope of High Challenge | High Support: De-Mystifying Psychological Safety | |
| Workshop #8  Pinning Your Colours to the (Skill Acquisition) Mast: A Pragmatic Perspective on Developing Skillful Performers. | |
| 1245-1340 | Lunch (various food outlets available in Atrium for delegates) | Atrium/Andrew Miller Building |
| 1320-1335 | CPD coaching study opportunities at Stirling (Stephen Macdonald, Uni of Stirling) | |
| 1340 | Aim to be at your workshop location by 1340 | |
| 1345-1445 | Workshop #1 TBA repeated from morning | |
| Workshop #2 TBA repeated from morning | |
| Workshop #3 TBA repeated from morning | |
| Workshop #4 TBA repeated from morning | |
| Workshop #5  Privileging Athlete Perspectives in Pathway Innovation**.** | |
| Workshop #6  (Un)necessary Evil: How Does Social Media Influence Performance? | |
| Workshop #7  If I Can See It, I Can Be It: Why Focusing on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Matters in Sport. | |
| Workshop #8  Going Off Script: The Realities of Translating Coach Education Policy to Practice. | |
| 1500-1600 | **Closing Keynote:** Closing Keynote with Q&A - Dr Anna Stodter: How coaches learn and the importance of critical filters | |
| 1600 | Closing remarks (University of Stirling and **sports**cotland) Departure | |

Campus map: <https://blog.stir.ac.uk/files/2018/09/Campus-map-key-building.pdf>

**Cost & Accommodation**

There is no cost to attend the symposium, although delegates are responsible for their own food and accommodation. Stirling Court Hotel on Campus unfortunately is fully booked. However, there is a wide range of accommodation available locally if required.

**Booking Procedure**

To allow us to plan effectively, please [complete the online registration form (2 mins) to secure your place.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9wmNTnnMy0yRSaQjjdF0IleIcCTO2zNPkKZFbjU6f99UMU5GVUJYR0tOWE5BRERSQ0w5WlRDVVNIUC4u)

**Further information**

[www.coachingsymposium.stir.ac.uk](http://www.coachingsymposium.stir.ac.uk)

If you have questions or require further details please contact Stephen Macdonald, Symposium Organiser: [stephen.macdonald@stir.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.macdonald@stir.ac.uk)