




The Emergence of Next Practices

Our Awareness and Preparedness

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Objective: to explore some of the novel practices/trends emerging elsewhere in higher education with a view to stimulating discussions on the perceived willingness and preparedness of higher educational institutions particularly within the Caribbean space to embrace them.



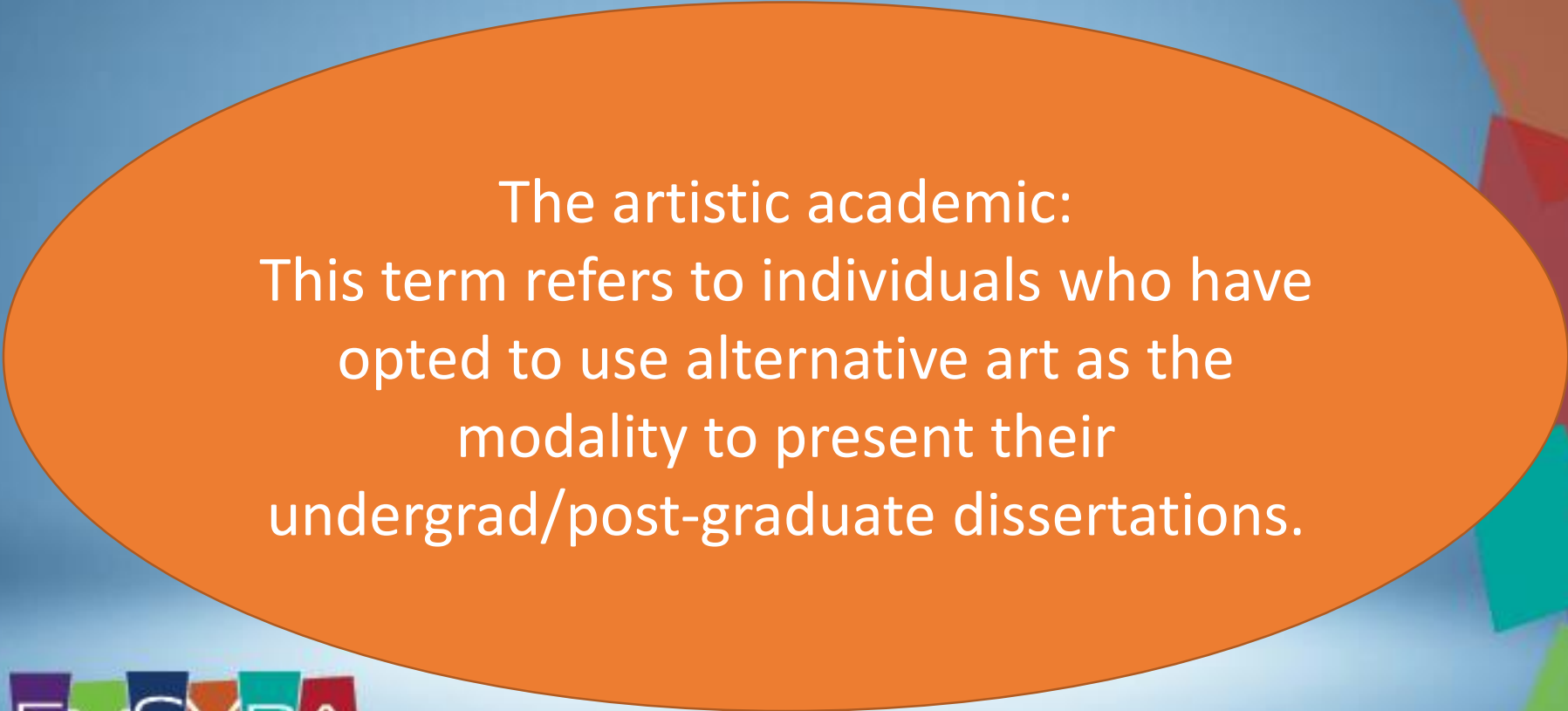

The innovative process in higher education involves two aspects: “doing new things or doing existing things better”. (Brennan, J. 2014. p. 25)

The innovative practices should be evident in the modality of “teaching and learning, conducting and disseminating research and engagement and relationship building”. (Pop 2018)

Challenges facing Higher Education Institution

- Globalization
- Demand and Supply
- Higher Education Funding

The end result: A competitive higher education environment



The artistic academic:
This term refers to individuals who have
opted to use alternative art as the
modality to present their
undergrad/post-graduate dissertations.

Examples of Alternative Thesis/Dissertation Submissions

Zoe Fitzgerald Pool's PHD dissertation- Awarded 2008 from University of Bournemouth

“In a wooden box inscribe with brass nameplate. The contents of the box included two books with each page populated by colourful graphics, describing outcomes of interviews done during the research. There were DVDs with visual and auditory expositions of material. Other assortment of treasures with text attached to them were also included in the box”.

Examples of Alternative Thesis/Dissertation Submissions cont'd

- **University of Toronto:** In 2001 Spencer Harrison painted his PHD dissertation on outside of a circus tent.
- **Virginia Tech University:** In 2001 Saliha Bava produced a Web-Based Dissertation.

Monash University (Australia): In 2014, Anne Harris, an education research presented seven film videos as part of her dissertation

Examples of Alternative Thesis/Dissertation Submissions

- **Columbia University:** 2014 Nick Sousanis presented his doctoral thesis as a 132 pages graphic novel. (Benjamin Dix, a British visual ethnographer used a similar approach in 2016)
- **University of British Columbia:** Patrick Stewart, an architect, was awarded his PHD In 2015. he wrote his dissertation with little capital letter and punctuations.
- **Princeton University:** In 2016, Piper Heron, a doctoral mathematician, included in each chapter of her thesis, a section for the “lay person”, the “initiated” and the “mathematician”.

Examples of Alternative Thesis/Dissertation Submissions cont'd

Harvard University: In 2017, a student in the Department of English submitted a rap album for his final thesis.

Clemson University: a doctoral student submitted a 34 track rap Album for his dissertation

Examples of Alternative Thesis/Dissertation Submissions Nottingham Trent University:

Architecture and Building Environment final year students have the option of completing the traditional 10,000 words

OR

Complete 5,000 words with supporting presentations to tutors and peers

OR

Complete 5,000 words document accompanied by illustrations and simulations.

Implications for the Caribbean

To what extent are the Caribbean
Higher Education Institutions open to
the range of innovations?

Example from UTECH

- “Theses/dissertations are to be typed on white letter-size paper (8 ½ inches x 11 inches). If diagrams, maps, tables, and similar presentations do not fit on this sheet size, another size may be used and folded to fit”,

Example from UTECH cont'd

- “Production of the manuscript for submission should be typed. Typing is to be on one side of each sheet only. Typeface is to be Times New Roman and font size 12. The text should be left aligned.
- Main headings should be centred, and boldface. Main headings are those that appear only at the top of the page to start a main section of the thesis / dissertation.

Example from UTECH cont'd

- “Title and chapter headings should be Times New Roman, font size 12 and done in “title case” (capitalize each word except prepositions and pronouns)...” (pg. 6)

Example from UTECH cont'd

In the faculty of Education at UTECH

- M.Ed students must complete a project with maximum of eighteen thousand (18,000) words,
- MPhil a maximum of fifty thousand (50,000) words,
- Ph.D a maximum of eighty-thousand words (80,000).



Similar guidelines were also found at:

- University of West Indies, St Augustine
- University of West Indies, Mona
- Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts

Practice-based research in Caribbean UWI, St Augustine

The required length of the written component of thesis at the various levels

- MA: six thousand to ten thousand (6000-10 000) words,
- M.Phil: twenty thousand to thirty thousand (20 000 - 30 000) words
- Ph.D: the written component is forty thousand to fifty thousand (40 000 – 50 000) words.

Practice-based research in Caribbean EMCVPA

“write/devise and present and Actors Thesis Book based on research, creation of a written (solo/one actor) play and performance of said play; rehearse, mount, produce, and perform the (solo/one actor) play (45mins – 60mins long)”. (EMCVPA 2013, pg. 2)

Practice-based research in Caribbean EMCVPA

“Independent Study Thesis word limit is a four thousand (4000) words limit. We may do 10% more (4400) or 10% less (3600). This word count does not includes your script. Please include final script among appendices. Your paper should be typed in Times new Roman font 12 and double spaced using MLA format”.(pg 5)

Limitations to innovation of dissertation models

- Lack of autonomy
- Regulatory policies
- Traditional practices

Recommendation

- Evidence all dictate that higher education institutions (especially within the Caribbean) re-engineer a culture that is more open to embrace emerging global practices, and cultivate a willingness to disrupt existing narratives, if they are to remain relevant within this dynamic educational space.