



Compassionate Pedagogy Learning Circle Funded Project 2025/26:

Study on Compassion Fatigue in HE Academic Staff

Project Aims

- Explore the prevalence and experience of compassion fatigue among UK HE academic staff, building on previous quantitative work by the Compassionate Pedagogy Learning Circle.
- Recruit academics with student-facing roles across the HE sector to take part in semi-structured interviews on their experience providing pastoral care and support.
- Use findings to raise awareness and empower HE institutions to implement effective support strategies around compassion fatigue.



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The project has gone well, and initial analysis indicates some meaningful insight into HE staff experiences of compassion fatigue. This will enable us to raise awareness and empower HE institutions to implement effective support strategies to promote best practice related to compassion fatigue within the HE sector.

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Project Rationale

- Compassion fatigue is well-documented in the helping professions, but remains under-researched in HE academic staff, who often provide extensive pastoral care and support to students over prolonged periods.
- As compassion fatigue becomes a growing concern in the sector, this project addresses the gap by exploring academic staff's own experiences of providing that care.

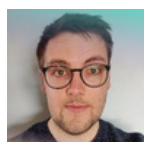
Current Progress and Reflections

- Completed 15 interviews with academic staff across a range of UK HE institutions, to be used alongside previous quantitative work from the Learning Circle.
- Qualitative analysis is underway, with final work now focused on synthesising qualitative and quantitative results and drafting a manuscript for peer review.
- The project has deepened understanding of the prevalence and experience of compassion fatigue in academic staff, laying the groundwork for recommendations to support both staff and student wellbeing.

Next Steps

- Complete the final analysis and draft the manuscript for peer-reviewed publication.

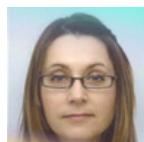
Scan here to learn more about the Compassionate Pedagogy Learning Circle.



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