

Transforming the academic supervision process for the benefit of students and staff

A Roundtable Discussion with

Neil Ralph

and

Dr. Helen Smith

Context

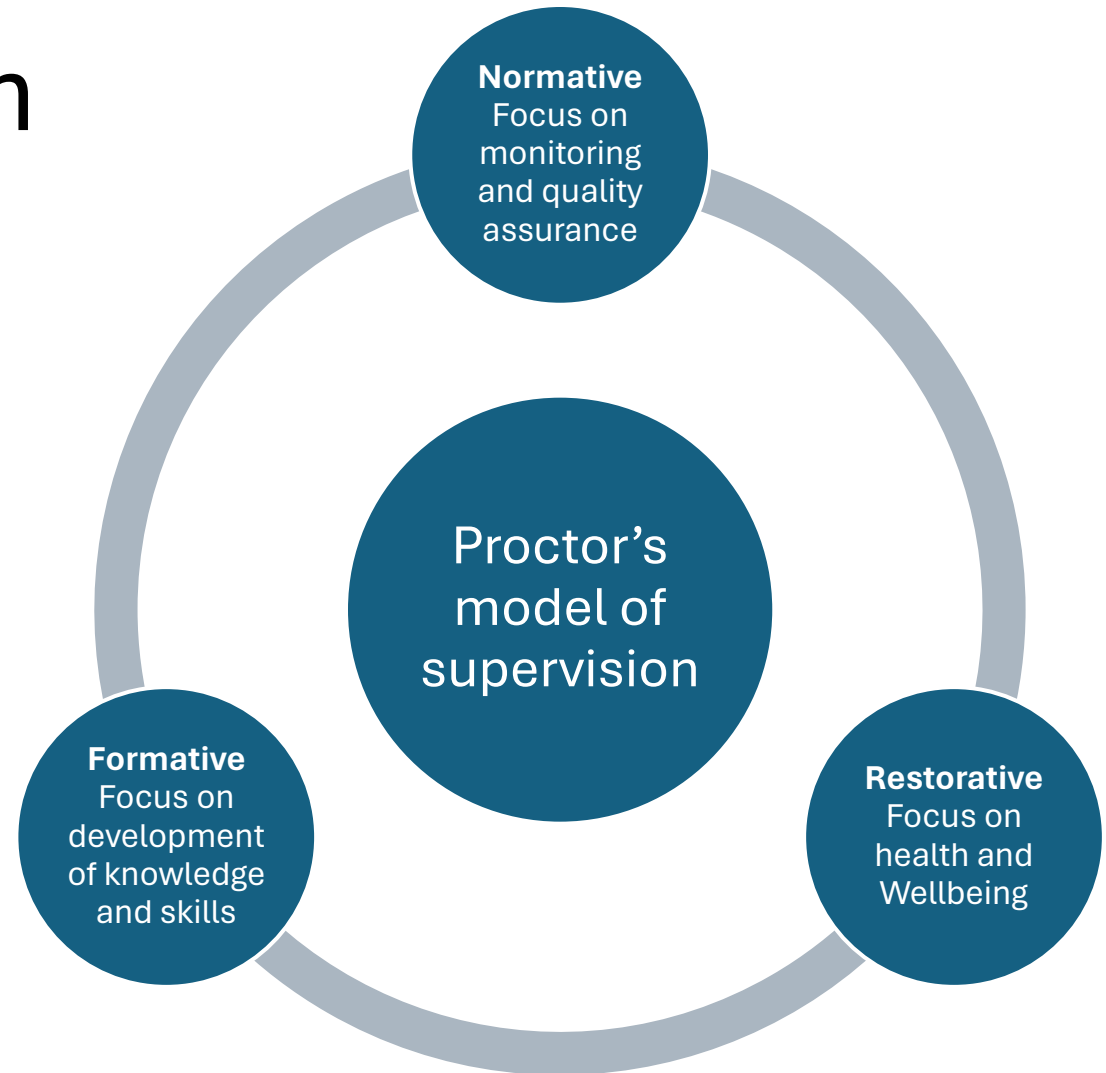
- Academic supervision for PhD and Masters students involves a complex and dynamic relationship between tutors and students with both parties facing challenges throughout the research and learning process.
- This Roundtable Discussion will
 - provide a forum for sharing experiences, challenges, and insights.
 - stimulate innovation in the academic supervision process.
 - consider the implications of sectoral challenges and the sometimes-competing priorities of personalisation, inclusivity, and accessibility.
- with the potential to develop new modes of supervision that better reflect the needs of students and supervisors.

Your perspective

1. What are the challenges and limitations of the traditional academic supervision process?
2. What, in your experience, do students expect of their supervisor? Do these differ between PhD and Masters levels?
3. What are the knowledge, skills and behaviours required of effective supervisors?
4. How do you personalise the supervision process and what opportunities are there to make it more inclusive and accessible?

An alternative approach

- Academic supervision requires the tutor to engage in a variety of roles, some of which may be unfamiliar and for which the tutor has not received appropriate training and support.
- These may include mentoring, advising, evaluating, and assessing, as well as supporting the student with research skills, domain knowledge, and psychological support.
- Traditional academic supervision often encounters difficulties in meeting the diverse needs of students, hindering the achievement of a truly personalized, inclusive, and accessible learning environment, whilst placing significant pressure on the supervisor to provide answers.
- The presenters are researching the potential for academic supervision to be enhanced through the coaching/ clinical supervision process and its formative, normative and restorative perspectives.



Contact

- Neil Ralph
 - Senior Teaching Fellow
 - Practicing coach and coach supervisor
 - Lancaster University
 - Email: neil.ralph@lancaster.ac.uk
 - Connect: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/neilralph/>
- Dr. Helen Smith
 - Senior Lecturer
 - Practicing coach and coach supervisor
 - Manchester Metropolitan University
 - Email: helen.smith@mmu.ac.uk
 - Connect: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-helen-smith-683695b/>

References

- Proctor, B. (2008) *Group Supervision: A guide to creative practice*. Group Supervision (pp. 1-248). Sage