Sustainable Innovation 2015

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Dr Frank O'Connor, Inter/transdisciplinary Sustainable Design Professional, Wales

Frank is a passionate, authentic, creative and values-led inter/transdisciplinary, cross-sectoral sustainable designer, writer, speaker, facilitator, activist, evaluator, mentor, coach and performer. He founded and led the award-winning Ecodesign Centre (EDC) for 7 years. Working internationally specializing in applied research, EDC won the World Green Design Contribution Award for it's capacity building model supporting policy, business, design and education. Frank has a mixed discipline background which includes a PhD in ecodesign and a Bachelors in Metal & Engineering Technology with Education (Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy). His passion for sustainable design was ignited by a conversation with a chemistry lecturer during his degree in 1988. After his Masters in Advanced Manufacturing Frank worked for 4 years in product development and manufacturing at Alps Electric collaborating with clients such as Apple (Cupertino) on existing and new product lines. Frank has gone on to work on sustainable design projects with a diverse range of clients including the UN, European Commission, national and regional governments, multinationals (e.g. Panasonic, Ricoh, Harman International), SMEs (e.g. Orangebox, Global Laser, G24i) along with numerous educational institutes. His work has taken him to Asia, Africa, Europe and Americas. During this time he has held many positions including a specially devised role of technical auditor for the European Commission, Publicly appointed advisor to the Welsh Government on Advanced Materials and Manufacturing (AMM) and ecodesign lecturer at UNIDO Green Industry Summer School since 2012. Frank also co-founded the European Network of Ecodesign Centres (ENEC). Frank has published extensively and has been delivering talks and workshops overseas since the mid 90s.