

Operationalising Internationalisation in the Teaching & Learning Context of Irish HEIs: Learnings from the Lecturer's Perspective



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Conceptual Framework

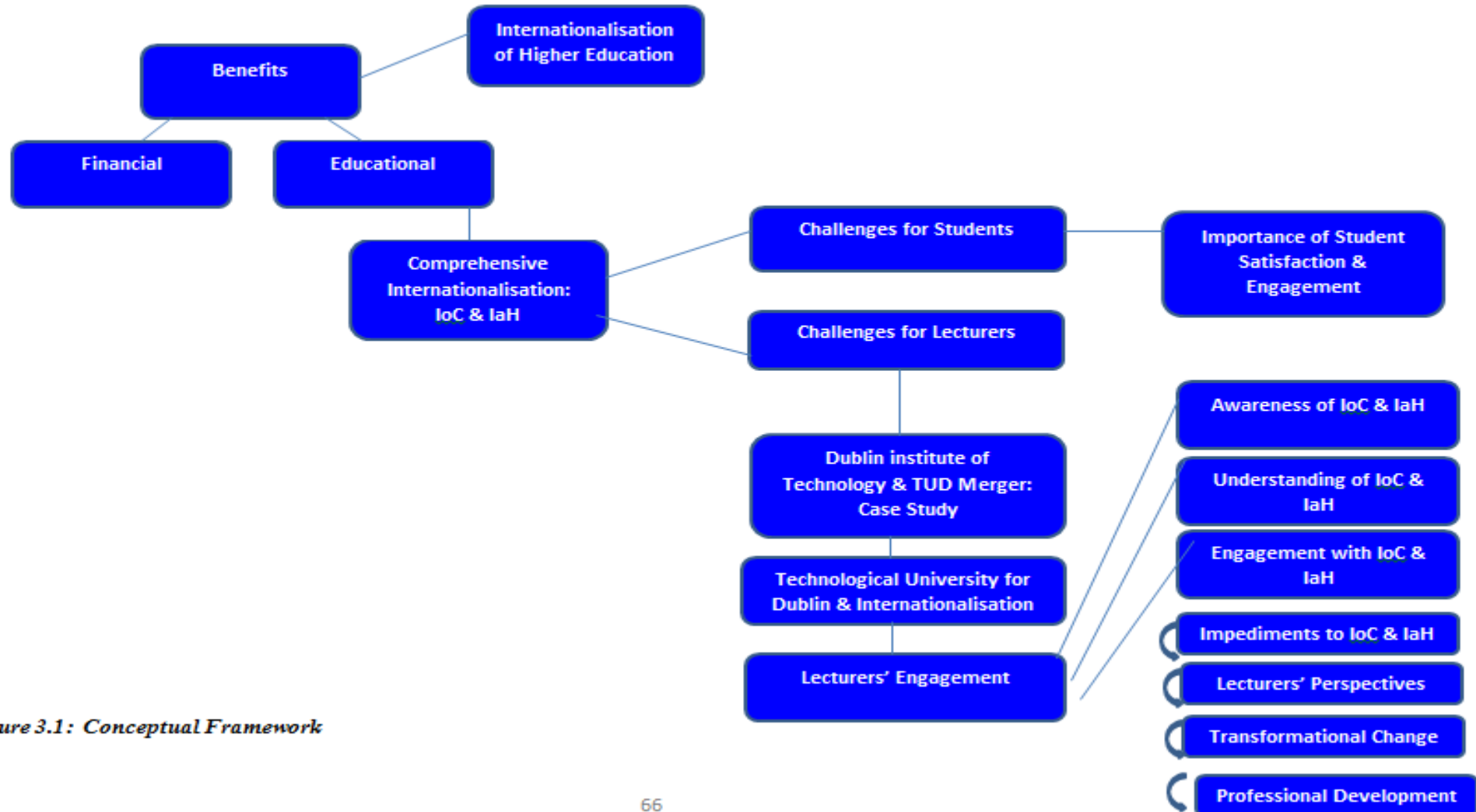


Figure 3.1: Conceptual Framework

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In the context of Irish HEIs:

1. To what extent do lecturers understand and engage with the concept of IoC?
2. If lecturers are found not to be engaging with the concept of IoC, why is this the case in spite of an increasing presence of internationalisation strategies in Government, HEA & HEI policy documents and an increasing number of IoC guides?
3. To what extent can a Community Of Practice, underpinned by change management theories, influence lecturers to internationalise their curricula and what changes, if any, might come about as a result?

(to note: research is being conducted in the context of the TUD)

Action Research Change Model

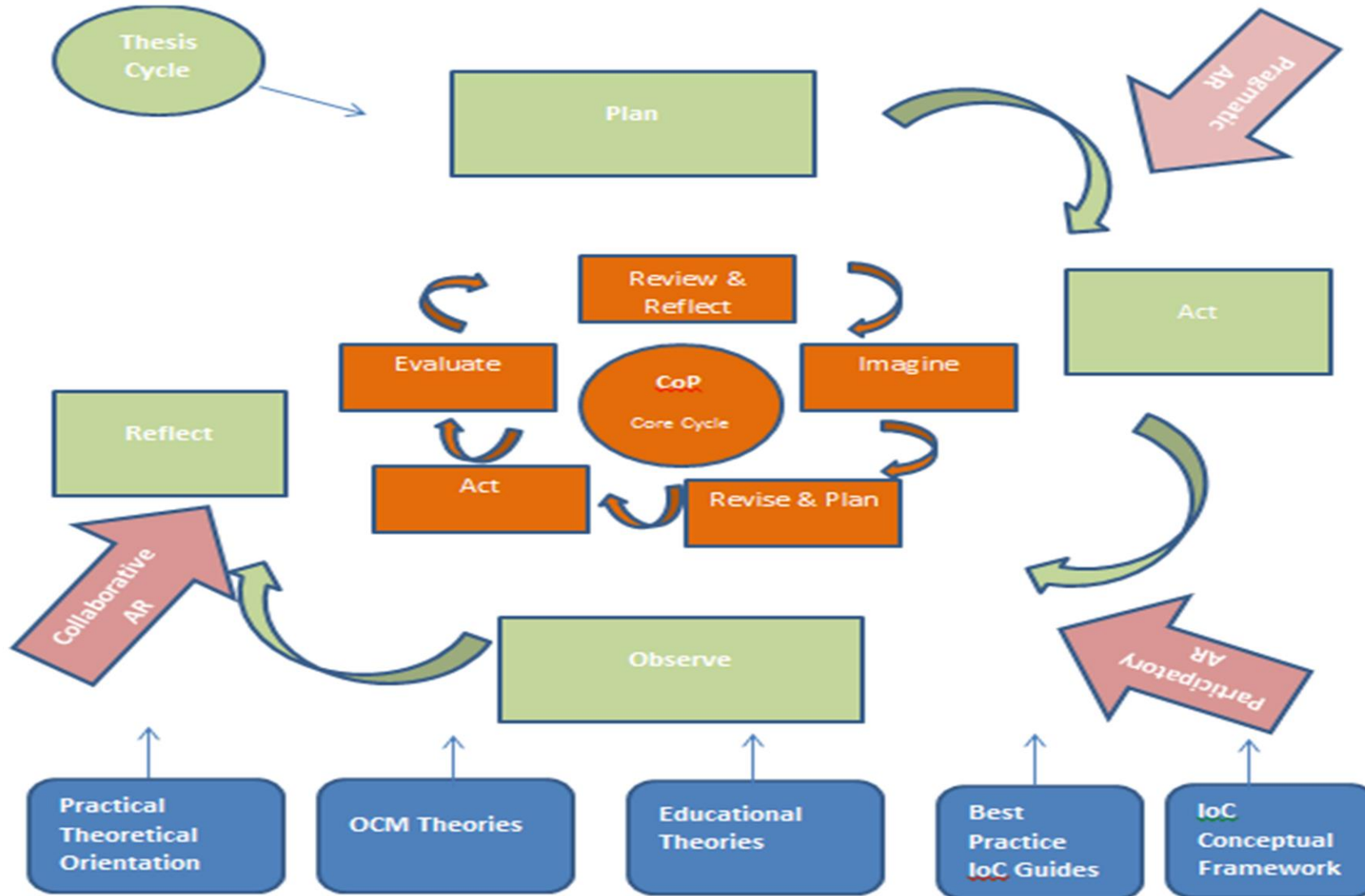


Figure 3.2 Action Research Change Model

Discuss

- Have you ever been involved in a CoP focussed on curriculum innovation/ change?
- Have you ever established a CoP to engage lecturing teams with curriculum innovations/ change?
 - Any thoughts or comments?

Review & Reflect

- Meeting aims:
 - To get to know each other and consider how our disciplinary, personal and professional contexts have influenced our interest in or experiences with IoC to date
 - Through reviewing and reflecting on our current understanding and engagement with IoC, and considering the pre-readings, establish as a group
 - our rationales for internationalising the curriculum
 - our conceptualisations of IoC
 - our approaches to IoC
- "I'm beginning to see how this might actually be of practical use to me"
- "It should be a guiding principle for curriculum design"

Imagine

- Meeting aims:
 - Thinking about the module you want to add international/intercultural dimension to and more specifically the learning outcome or activity you want to focus on, the aims of this meeting are to:
 - Begin to translate our rationales & conceptualisations of IoC from CoP 1 into curriculum change by applying the approaches we established together
 - Share our ideas regarding new ways of thinking and doing things
 - Think of your module and your overall aim for internationalising this module
 - Specifically look at content, T&L strategies and assessment

Quotes from CoP 2

- *‘more conscious of the diversity... think of things from other angles,,, approach things differently’*
- *‘it’s not necessarily specific to IoC, it’s just good practice’*
- *‘more self-aware’*
- *‘by including international perspectives, you are making it more interesting’*
- *‘ideas international students come up with could be different’*
- *‘looking at discipline issues in a global context’*

Revise & Plan

- Meeting aims:
 - From our discussions in CoP 2, thinking about the module you want to add international/intercultural dimension to and more specifically the learning outcome and associated learning activity you want to focus on, the aim of this meeting is to
 - Discuss how we will do things differently in our modules this semester by
 - Sharing our action plans to practically implement our IoC learning activities this semester
 - Sharing ideas for measuring impact on students' learning

Act

- Meeting aims:

- Share your progress, challenges and/or successes with regards to the new IoC related ideas or activities you are currently implementing in your classes
- Share any ideas you may have on measuring the impact of IoC on student learning
- Reflect & see if you might do things differently for the remainder of the semester
- Consider ways in which we could share the outcomes of this project with a wider audience

Noteworthy thoughts/ observations from CoP 4

- Overwhelming/ difficulty in translating expectations of this group
- Challenge of getting students to talk about experiences, while still relevant to the lesson
- Talking about your own cultural background & highlighting the benefits of working in cross-cultural groups
- Looking beyond the content

Evaluate

- Meeting aims:
 - Evaluate
 - To what extent did you achieve your IoC goals?
 - Reflect on the impact of the action taken
 - How might you do things differently moving forward?
 - Consider ways in which we could share the outcomes of this project with a wider audience

Quotes from CoP 5

“I can now see the multi-dimensional aspects to IoC, it is not just about incorporation of international content, it is about integrating international & domestic students and using the cultural diversity that exists in the class to facilitate more meaningful & enjoyable activities”

“Participation in the CoP has improved my appreciation of how ‘possible’ it is to introduce changes”

“It has made me more creative in terms of what my subject (maths) has to offer students from a cultural standpoint, that I wouldn’t have otherwise seen”

“I am more conscious of ensuring the content & T&L strategies are relevant to all students”

“It has made me realise that positive integration between dom & int students needs to be facilitated”

“I have become much more focussed on student-centred learning as a result of the group”

“It has improved my approach to teaching”

Initial Reflections

- Benefits of AR & CoP for engaging lecturers with curriculum change
 - Lecturer centred approach
 - Ownership
 - Supported environment
 - Critically reflect/ collaborate- motivated to change
 - Cross-disciplinary/institutional : variety of perspectives, building networks etc..!

Initial Reflections

- Enthusiasts- challenge of reaching wider audience..
- High level conceptualisation – refocus to the curriculum
- Pre-readings – critical theory (espoused theory)
- Enjoyable!

Next Steps

- Thematic Analysis using Nvivo
- Any tips for conducting analysis?
- Comments on process to date?
- Your input would be greatly appreciated!