**Tatal communities of practice support learning for personal/professional growth** (299 words)

**Context.** Today’s academics work within a landscape of continuing complexity; a landscape from which collaborative reflective conversations seem to have disappeared. In this environment, Tatalers have taken up Palmer’s challenge “to grow as teachers…to do something alien to academic cultures…talk to each other” (1998, p. 12).

**Initiative**. Tatal (Talking about teaching and learning) communities of practice employ models of social reflection to construct a teaching philosophy statement and a teaching portfolio through a process of writing stories as reflective inquiry that connect peers within and across disciplines, institutions and countries (McCormack & Kennelly, 2011).

**Evaluative data collection/analysis.** The particular significance of this research is its longitudinal perspective across multiple Tatals. A two-staged, mixed methods evaluation perspective gathers both quantitative and qualitative data. Stage 1 examined historical data gathered from Tatals formed each year from 2008 to 2018, using for example, questionnaires (open-ended and scaled questions), individuals’ personal experience stories and an externally facilitated focus group. Stage 2 will gather questionnaire-based data on three occasions from each of the four contemporary TATALs (two formed in 2019, one formed in 2020 and one to be formed in 2021). Some first occasion stage 2 questionnaire data is expected to be available for conference presentation.

**Evidence of outcomes/effectiveness**. Evaluation of Tatalers’ experiences to date (Stage 1, fifteen Tatals) suggest Tatal communities support participants’ learning for personal and professional growth. Tatal participation has enhanced their teaching knowledge and skills to enrich students’ learning; increased their confidence, competence, sense of connectedness and collaboration; and expanded their engagement with the scholarship of teaching and learning through collaborative research and publication with other Tatalers TATALers often apply their leadership capacity and capability by facilitating newly-formed communities and their abilities are widely recognised through the award of HERDSA Fellowships (15 TATALers were awarded Fellowships between 2013 and 2019).