

Unforgettable Experience of LERU Doctoral Summer School in Heidelberg 2023

The LERU Doctoral Summer School 2023 is held at Heidelberg University. I am very grateful that I was selected as a Ph.D. representative of Trinity College Dublin to attend this excellent academic event.

It was a week-long intensive immersion into the world of intervention science applied to global challenges. The program brought together leading academics, researchers, and doctoral students from the top European universities to explore the theoretical and practical aspects of intervention science.

The key themes of the summer school—climate change, pandemics, and societal injustice—were examined through the lens of intervention science. The discourse around these converging global challenges was insightful, drawing on the expertise of renowned faculty and the diverse perspectives of participants from various disciplines.

During LERU summer school, I shared my research topic with colleagues, which is at the intersection of immersive technology, psychology, and education. Specifically, I am investigating the potential of Extended Reality (XR) technology as an innovative intervention for enhancing educational experiences (e.g., social competence education and soft skills training). The summer school's focus on intervention science provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the methodologies and theoretical frameworks used to design and assess interventions. Moreover, during the poster exhibition, I gave a presentation of my research poster in relation to how Extended Reality (XR) technology can be used as a creative intervention for educational experiments and practices.



The opportunity to present to such a knowledgeable audience was remarkably valuable, providing me with constructive feedback and stimulating discussions about the potential opportunities of my research topics. By showing case research projects from my Ph.D. study, students from the Global Health Institute at Heidelberg University, also have a chance to learn something different from their research fields, and see more about creatively using technology to conduct interventions for certain groups of individuals. For example, an unexpected learning experience from summer school was the realization of the interconnectedness of different research fields. Although my research is grounded in technology and education, the event underscored that it intersects with disciplines. This understanding can help me broaden the impact of my research, potentially contributing to areas beyond my primary focus.

The summer school also emphasized the importance of intervention science in addressing global challenges. It brought to light the crucial role scientists and researchers like myself play in creating, implementing, and assessing interventions to ensure a better future for all. The LERU sessions offered valuable insights into the complexities of real-world intervention design and deployment. Its emphasis on global challenges also broadened my perspective, highlighting the potential for my research to contribute to larger societal issues beyond my current research areas. I also actively participated in various workshops and discussions, contributing my insights on understanding a range of intervention science from other participants' research and experiences.

In conclusion, attending the LERU Doctoral Summer School 2023 was an intellectually enriching experience that significantly expanded my academic horizons. The comprehensive exploration of intervention science provided a robust theoretical framework and practical methodologies that I can integrate into my research on XR technology in education. The event was not only an academic learning journey but also a unique opportunity for professional growth. The connections and relationships I built with other attendees from top European universities are invaluable. These networks will not only enrich my current research but will also foster potential collaborations and opportunities in the future.

