



Samantha Earp,

Interim Executive Director, HarvardX at Harvard University, USA

Samantha Earp is Managing Director for Academic Technology Services for Harvard University Information Technology, a new role created after the merger of the former central University Information Systems and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) IT Organization. In this role, she oversees the strategic priorities and ongoing operations of university academic platforms, academic technology for the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS); arts and humanities research computing; digital video services; and institutional academic technology outreach and innovation programs. She also serves as Interim Executive Director for HarvardX, Harvard's engagement with the edX non-profit online learning initiative.

Earp has worked in higher education for more than 25 years in a variety of roles at the intersection of technology and teaching and learning, from serving as a student worker in a computer center to leading academic services for central IT. She has taught at the community college, undergraduate and M.S. levels, in the U.S. and in France and also worked as a software developer and translator. She holds a B.A. in French from Berea College and an M.A. in French linguistics from Indiana University. Prior to moving to Harvard in 2012, she spent 12 years at Duke University in several different roles in instructional technology and academic IT, most recently as Director of Academic Services in the Office of Information Technology.

Abstract

Two panelists involved in the implementation of MOOC platforms will present their experiences and analyses of the impact of these platforms on expanding higher education. Daphne Koller of COURSERA and Samantha Earp of HarvardX, representing edX, will also relate to the benefits of MOOCs for on-campus students – and hopefully provide deans with insight into the costs and benefits of MOOCs for students, the changing roles of academic faculty, and what business models are developing. Reference to assessment strategies will also be made.