



2019 AWARD FOR AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The University of Queensland

Associate Professor Blake McKimmie
Professor Barbara Masser
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The Psychology of Criminal Justice team transforms student learning by using a novel dramatic narrative (Waraich, 2004) to engage and motivate students to engage in evidence-based learning practices throughout the semester, and to challenge them to use their newly acquired knowledge by applying it in immersive class activities working collaboratively with their peers. Using the flexibility provided by a massive open online course, this prototype model for the classroom is based on the science of effective learning. It makes use of spaced learning, repeated testing before and after exposure to content (Roediger & Butler, 2011), and regular meaningful assessment tasks in class because being in class while learning aids learning (Bjerrregaard, Haslam, & Morton, 2016) and further enables peer learning (Boud, Cohen, & Sampson, 2006). To maximise student engagement and to sustain motivation both online and in class, the course is based around a crime drama that starts with a murder, and then follows the investigation before ending with the trial. This drama provides an engaging narrative context for the assessment activities as students attempt to find out *Who killed Janine Jenker?*