

## Discussion Guide

### Episode 5: Heather Blatt on Gaining a Global Perspective through Medieval Monster Literature

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#### About Global Learning

Global learning is the process of diverse people collaboratively analyzing and addressing complex problems that transcend borders (Landorf & Doscher, 2015). Among many student learning outcomes, global learning develops:

- **Global Awareness:** Knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems
- **Global Perspective:** Ability to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems
- **Global Engagement:** Willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving

#### About this Episode

On this episode, Stephanie is joined by Heather Blatt, Associate Professor in Florida International University's Department of English. Dr. Blatt's first book, *Participatory Reading in Late-Medieval England*, was published by Manchester University Press in 2018, when she also won the FIU Faculty Senate award for Excellence in Teaching. That award was granted in recognition of her work on learner-centered, global, and anti-racist course design. In this interview, Blatt discusses how she developed her global learning course, *Medieval Monstrosity*, which is all about how peoples and cultures view themselves and define who is "other." She talks about how even a course in medieval literature, through global learning, can impact a student's civic mindset and how global learning influenced even her own research.

#### Suggested Learning Outcomes

Upon reflection, listeners to this episode will be able to:

- Explain the role that monsters play in societies across the world
- Describe strategies for diversifying course content and readings
- Discuss ways in which global learning can influence research and scholarship

#### Discussion Questions

- What influenced Dr. Blatt's decision to re-imagine "Medieval Monstrosity" as a global learning course?
- What's "global" about "Medieval Monstrosity?"
- What problems are students grappling with in Blatt's course? How do these problems transcend different kinds of borders?
- What is the relationship between maps and perspective?
- How did Blatt diversify her course's content and readings?
- What does Blatt mean by "being an ethical and responsible reader of literature?" How does this relate to global engagement?
- How do students develop global awareness in Blatt's course?
- How has global learning influenced Blatt's research and scholarship?

## Suggested Activities

- Ask listeners to think of a course in their field of study that does not seem very global, then challenge them to turn it into a global learning course. Think of a potential title, essential questions or global problems, possible learning outcomes, learning and assessment activities, and content and readings.
- Have listeners research a disciplinary society's or accrediting agency's philosophy, statements, or policies regarding global learning
- Have listeners analyze the reading list for a course syllabus. Ask them to identify additional perspectives that could be integrated into the course and suggest additional readings and media that could be used to expand students' global perspective

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## About the Podcast

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“Making Global Learning Universal” is a collection of conversations about engaging diverse perspectives, collaboration, and complex problem solving in higher education—on campus, online, in local communities, and abroad. Episodes are posted seasonally. Guests are from a wide variety of institutions, geographies, and areas of teaching, research, and practice. All episodes are accompanied by show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides to enhance global learning professional development, leadership, and teacher preparation.

The podcast is hosted by [Stephanie Doscher](#), Director of Global Learning Initiatives at Florida International University and co-author of *Making Global Learning Universal: Promoting Inclusion and Success for All*.

The “Making Global Learning Universal” podcast is produced through a partnership between Florida International University’s Office of Global Learning Initiatives, Media Technology Services, and Disability Resource Center.

Episodes, show notes, transcripts, and discussion guides are available at <http://globallelearningpodcast.fiu.edu>.

You may subscribe to the “Making Global Learning Universal” [RSS feed](#) or access the

podcast via iTunes, Spotify, or [Stitcher](#). “Making Global Learning Universal” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

### Listener recommendations

“Making Global Learning Universal” is always looking for new guests to join the show and interesting topics to cover. [Email us](#) to make a suggestion!

### Contact

Office of Global Learning Initiatives  
Florida International University  
11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
305-348-4145  
[goglobal@fiu.edu](mailto:goglobal@fiu.edu)

### Notes