Inquiry-Based Learning in Theology and Religious Studies: an Investigation and Analysis: 5.3 Pragmatic considerations: employability, IBL and TRS

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Complementing the affinity between IBL and the disciplinary culture of TRS is a sound pragmatic reason for encouraging the engagement of the discipline with inquiry pedagogies. The sorts of learning generated by IBL enhance students' employability, which is very important in non-vocational subjects like TRS. But what is crucial is that IBL enhances students' employability in a way which does not prioritise the pragmatic at the expense of the intellectual. In fact, because IBL merges intellectual development with employability skills, there is no conflict between the two. IBL does not allow the employability agenda to take over because the values at its heart are still intellectual (research skills, information literacy skills, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, reflexivity, skills related to collaborative inquiry, and so on). The skills students acquire therefore have both academic relevance and relevance in the job market and in wider society.

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