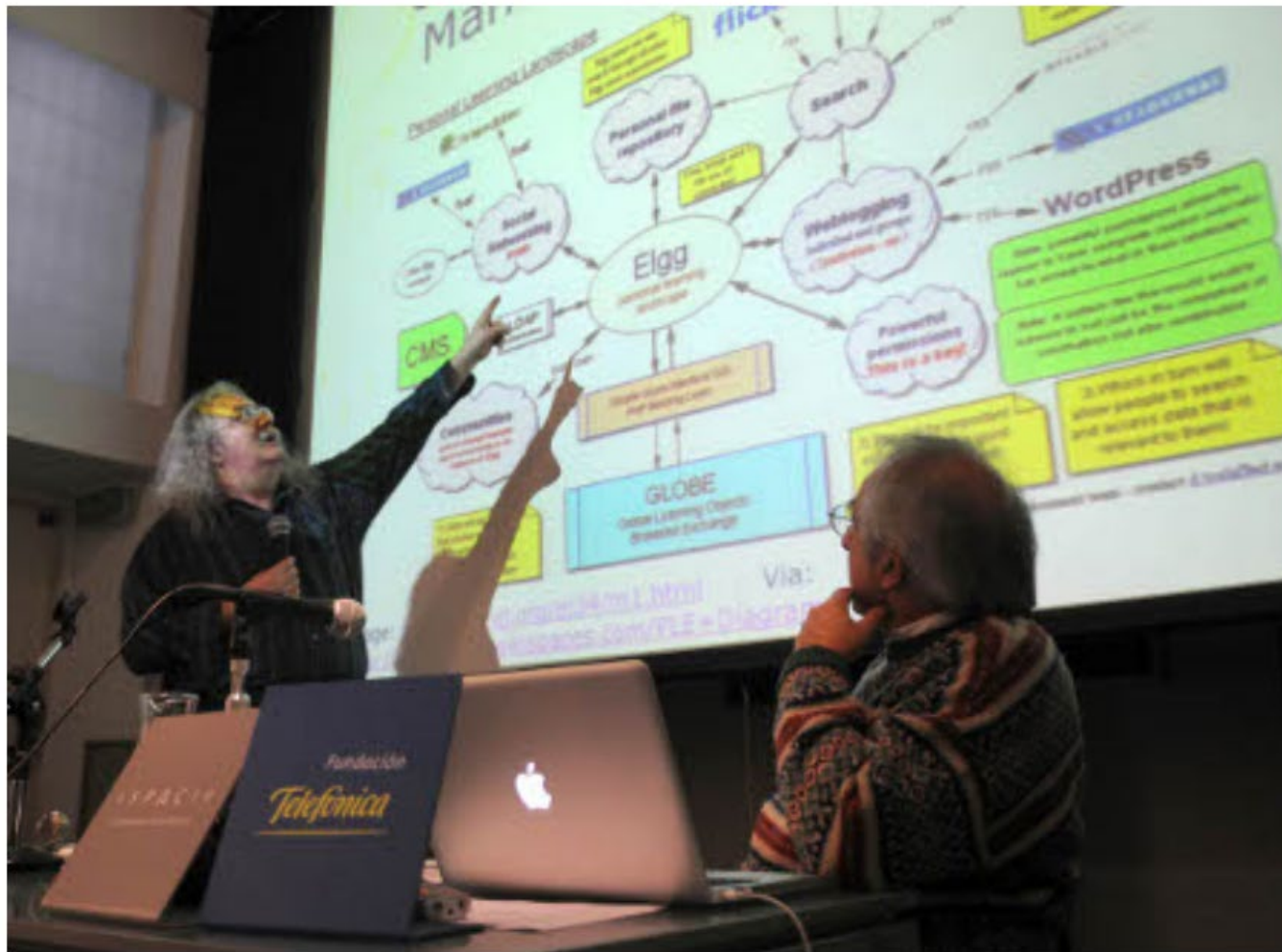


The Lecture Must Stand



Stephen Downes, April 14, 2011

The Lecture: Boredom Defined



The Classic Mistakes

Text too small to read, speaker addressing the slides



Anyone...? Anyone...?



Man and Superman

How to get out of Boring lecture??
by harrymohan



0:23 / 1:06

240p

YouTube



Don't Lecture Me

A long and eloquent denunciation of poor lectures - as though anyone supports poor lectures (Skip: 30:30)



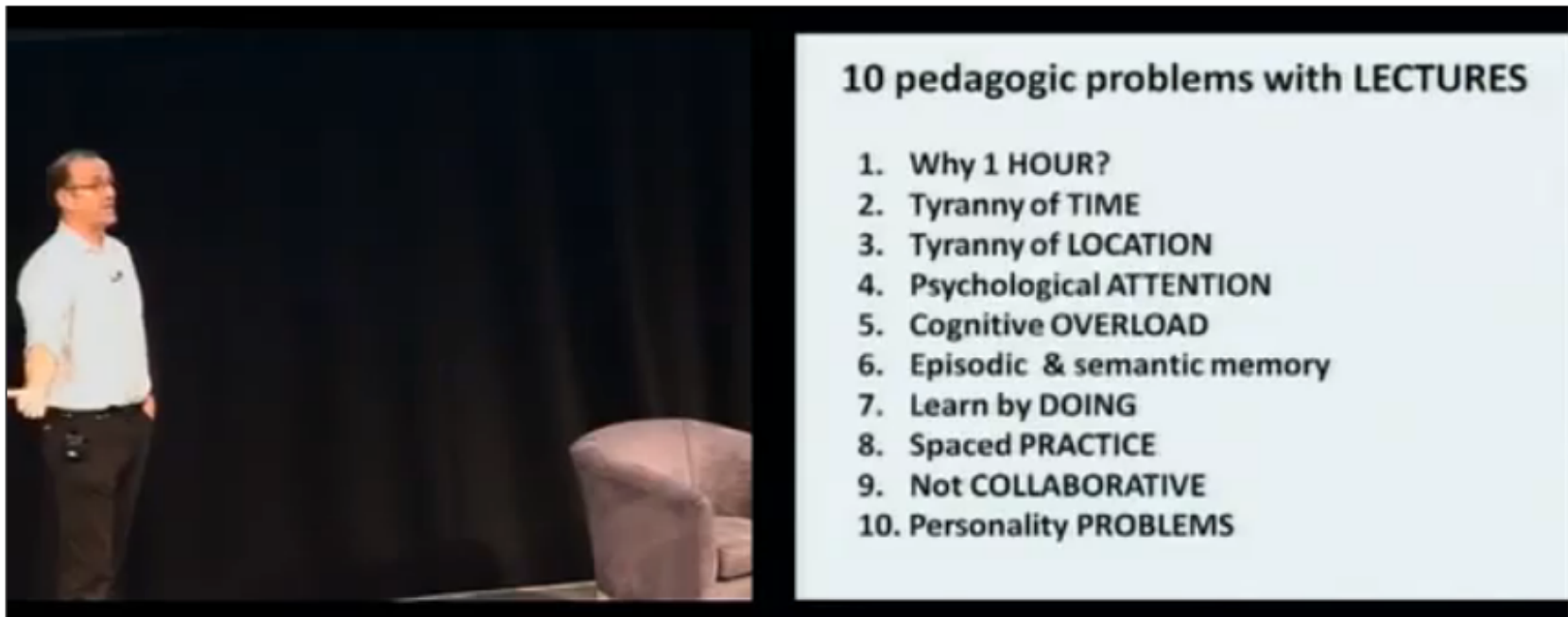
The Many Meanings of Lecture

A long and eloquent equivocation...

(a) 'a stern lecture' (b) reading from a book (c) an academic discourse

(a) bad lectures (b) lectures (c) bad listening practices

(a) lectures (b) lectures only, or lectures as default



The image shows a man in a light blue shirt and dark trousers standing on a stage. To his right is a pink armchair. In the background, a large screen displays a list of 10 pedagogic problems with lectures. The list is as follows:

- 10 pedagogic problems with LECTURES
- 1. Why 1 HOUR?
- 2. Tyranny of TIME
- 3. Tyranny of LOCATION
- 4. Psychological ATTENTION
- 5. Cognitive OVERLOAD
- 6. Episodic & semantic memory
- 7. Learn by DOING
- 8. Spaced PRACTICE
- 9. Not COLLABORATIVE
- 10. Personality PROBLEMS

I won't argue point by point, but will make the very general comment about empirical evidence -- *it depends on what question you ask*

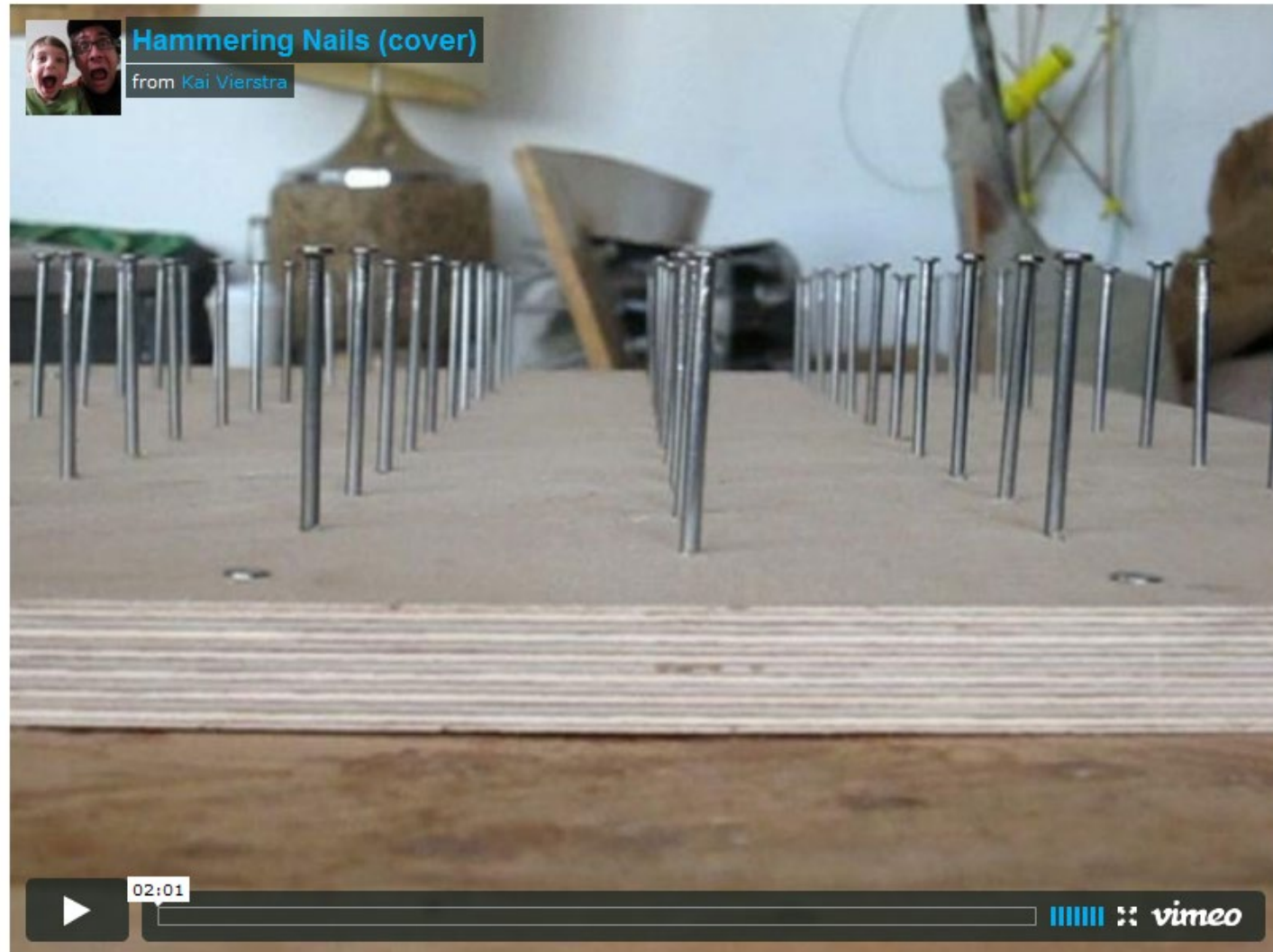
Half a Million Views...

The thing is... people *like* lectures.



Not an Argument Against Nails

The argument that "to a hammer, everything is a nail" is not an argument against nails.



The Demonstration

The classic mistake of misunderstanding the purpose of the thing

The empirical evidence: 99 percent of all demonstrations fail to change anything

The 45 minute lecture is 44 minutes of setting up and drawing in, and one minute of punch

Student Demonstration, London. November 10th 2010.



The Reading

The purpose of a reading isn't to hear the words. (Skip 0:30)



The Stand-up

The lecture is about shedding new light on old things (skip to: 1:00)



The Head Fake

The lecture is about putting a human face on abstract fears



Empathy

The lecture is about making a connection with an audience



[Barack Obama "Empathy Deficit" 2006](#) - [Funny videos are here](#)

Empathy

The lecture is about making a connection with an audience

The point of the lecture is to bring something out of *the lecturer* - how he or she thinks

It is through the giving of lectures that we connect with ourselves and our subject...

It's not all dry data - it's the human element that we are seeking here

The plural of data is not knowledge



[George Lakoff on Barack Obama's Empathy Campaign](#) by [FORAtv](#)

The Pale Blue Dot

... and the wonder of the universe



The Idea of the Holy

Rudolf Otto - The numinous is a mystery (Latin: *mysterium*) that is both terrifying (*tremendum*) and fascinating (*fascinans*) at the same time.

You don't consider a song to be a failure because people do not remember the words.



Mysterium

... tiny bubbles (Skip - 4:15)



Tremendum

... we will fight on the beaches (skip: 8:00)



Fascinans

Surely you're joking, Mr. Feynman (skip: 0:09)



Free at Last

Or perhaps he should have held a self-discovery session? (skip: 13:30)



Fin