



Through the MOOC Darkly: Reflections on Life, Learning and the Future of Education

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- Who I am...
 - The philosopher
 - The journalist
 - The technologist
 - The educator

- Learning has a lot in common with growing up

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. – 1 Corinthians 13

- Future of Education/Higher Education
 - Understanding the value proposition
 - Learning / Content / Job Training
 - Socialization / Networking / Identity
 - → more and more the first is morphing into the second as we begin to understand what learning actually is (ie., not just remembering a set of facts)

- Thoughts on Free Online Courses/MOOCs
 - it's not just replacing one kind of course with a diff kind of course
 - Problems with the course model in general
 - & especially with the idea that we can shortcut the learning process through structured presentations of information
 - The 'MOOC out of water' phenomenon – you have these students flip-flopping on the MOOC shore, gasping for air

- Open Ed Overview
 - - Varieties of openness
 - Free learning – no cost, no limits
 - Open Learning – a la OU or AU – no entrance barriers
 - Open access – the fundamental openness
 - Access not just to content, but to the community itself (ie the second half of the value proposition)
 - Open assessment
 - Open credentials - badges

- Tech innovations
 - wither the MOOC
 - personal learning in a cloud world
 - assessing the person, not the memorization

- Your favorite topic of the day
 - Yes, everybody needs a job & needs to eat, but
 - It's not about jobs and the economy
 - These won't be addressed through education
 - Fundamental issues of fairness need to be addressed
 - Who speaks for us? Who speaks for earth?