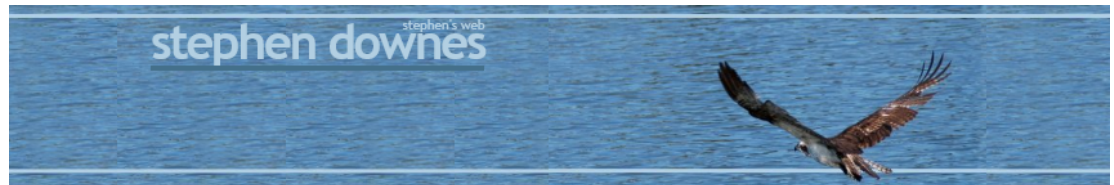


What Are Cultures of Learning?

Stephen Downes

ALT-C, Nottingham, UK

12 September 2013



[intro](#) [about](#) [newsletter](#) [presentations](#) [articles](#) [archives](#) [contact](#)



My eBooks



Ed Radio



Current song: [Unknown - 07 Let Me Love You](#)
Up
Stream title: [OLDaily Stream](#)
Bit rate: 128 kbps

YOU ARE NOT LOGGED IN. [\[LOGIN\]](#) [\[REGISTER\]](#)

[\[All Presentations\]](#)

What Are Cultures of Learning?

September 12, 2013

Keynote presentation delivered to ALT-C, Nottingham, UK.

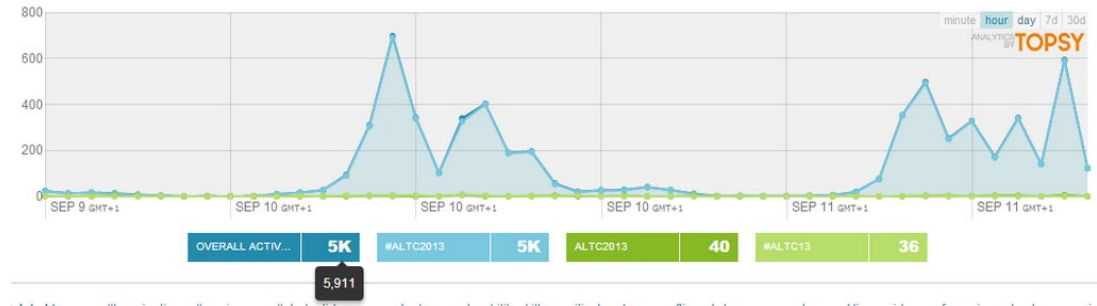
In the previous three days delegates will have explored all aspects of cultures of learning, ranging from digital literacies to learning landscapes, classroom environments, VLEs and open courses. But beyond examining the leaves and the trees, what can we say of the forest? A culture of learning – and for that matter, a learning culture – is composed of more than classes and schools and subjects, it is composed of the attitudes and enquiries of a culture of experimentation, curiosity, and quirkiness. In this closing keynote presentation, Stephen Downes will outline the framework of a culture of learning, identifying from examples and experiences the fundamental values that must be modeled and demonstrated by society's leaders, and will comment on implications to practice, research and policy.



Presentation page:

<http://www.downes.ca/presentation/326>

Backchannel



www.downes.ca/chat

- or -

Tweet with #altc2013



Exploring the frontiers of e-learning - borders, outposts and migration

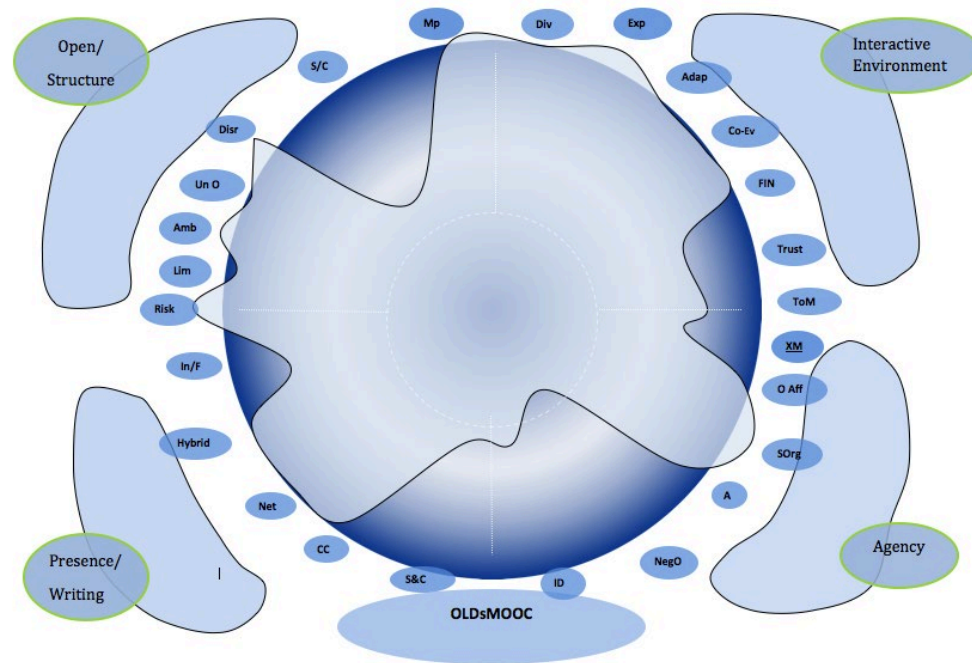


<http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2005/>

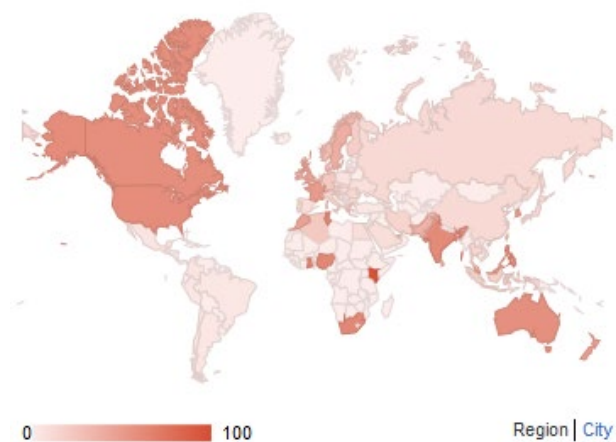
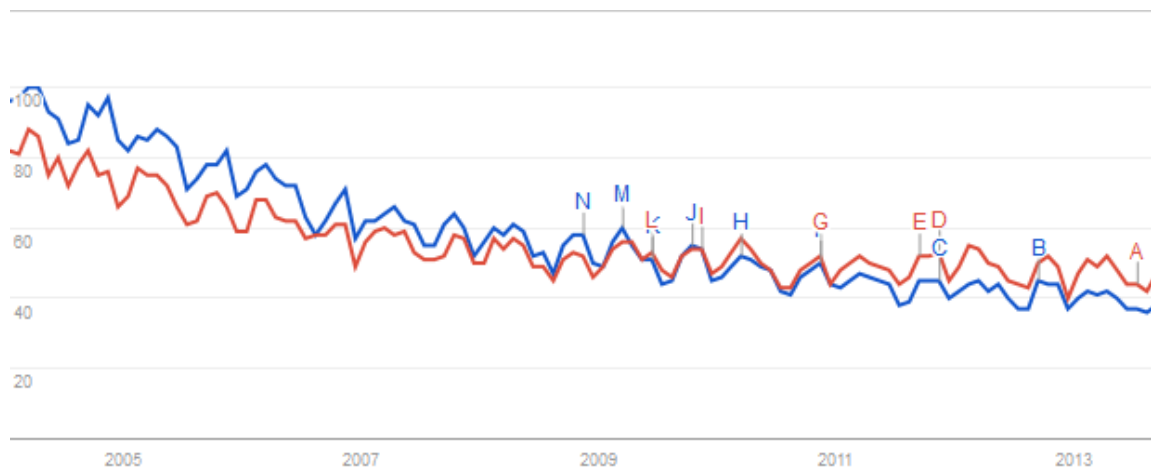


*How many of you would be here if
you were not being paid by your
employer?*

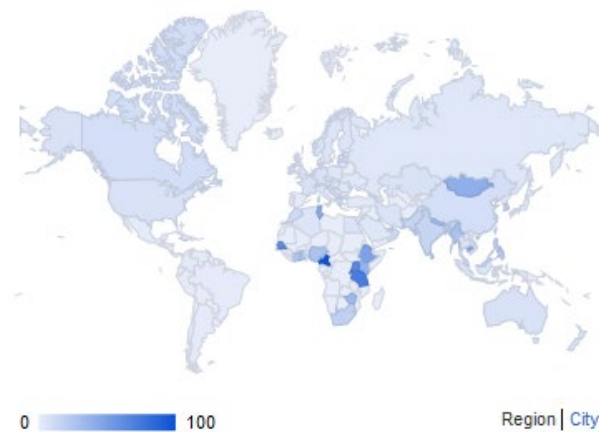
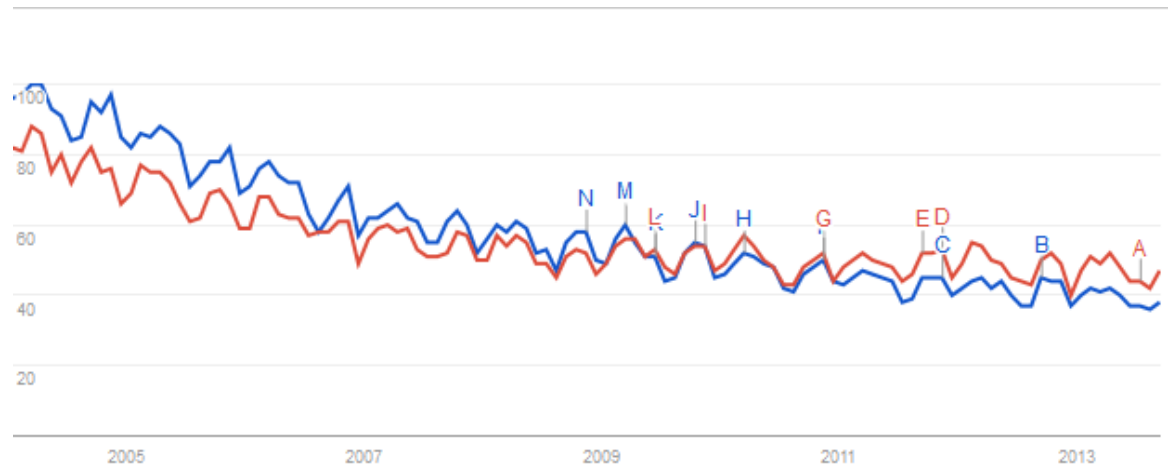
‘Collaboration is the joining together of things that do not naturally want to be joined’, which drew audible sucking in of breath from the audience. (Mackness)



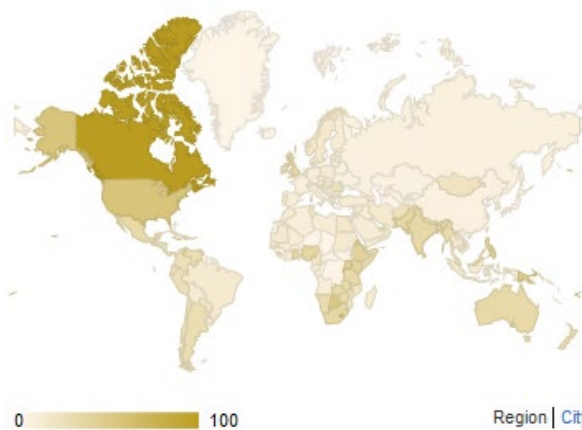
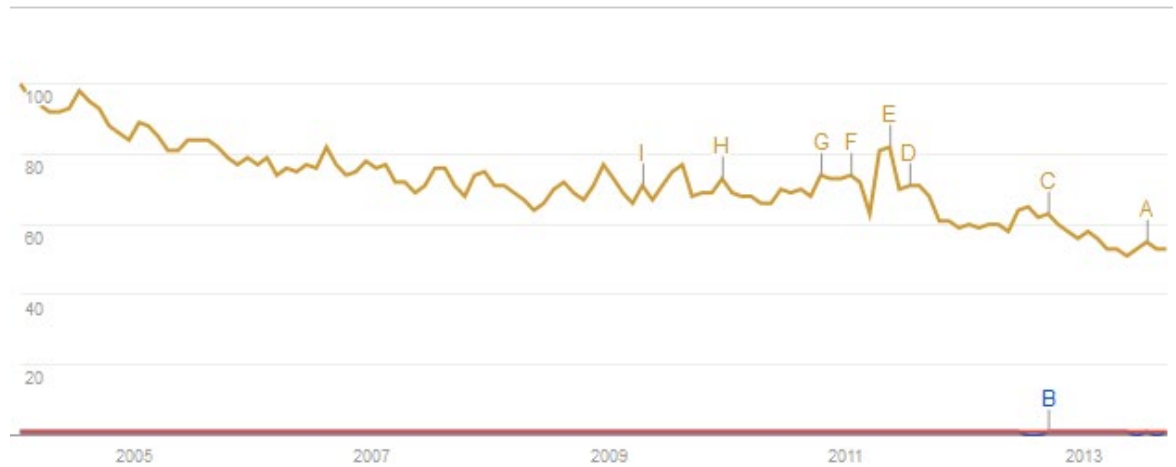
Collaboration



Cooperation



Network



<http://www.google.com/trends/explore#geo&q=cooperation,++collaboration,+network&cmpt=q>

Progression of Networks

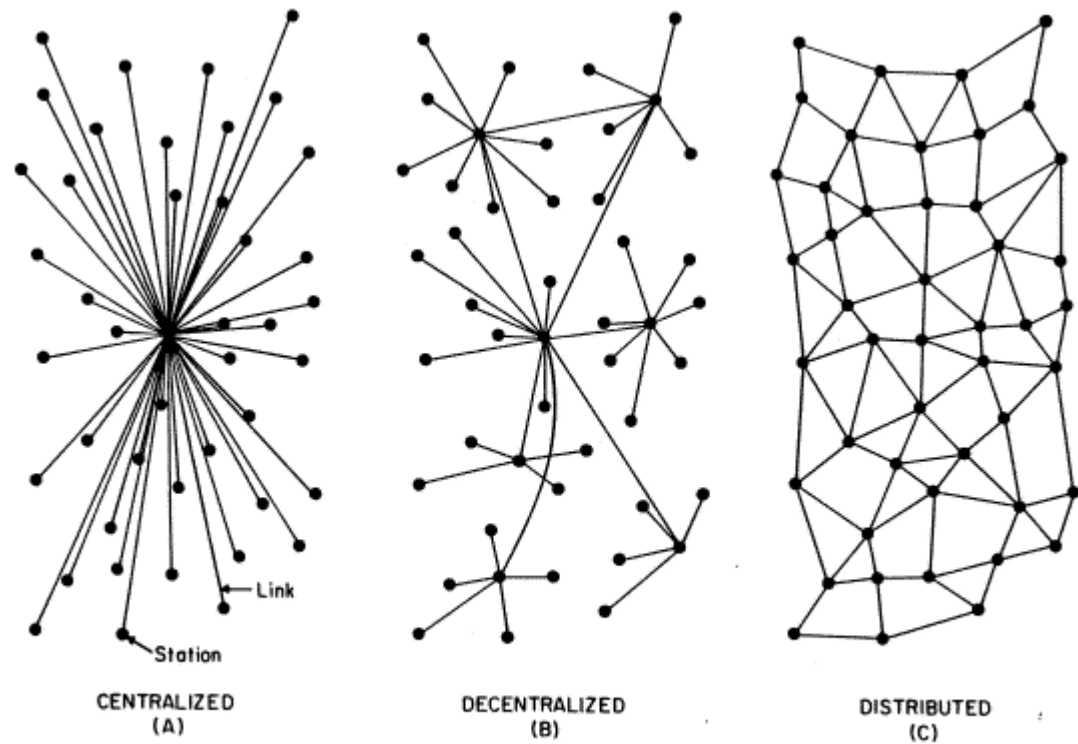
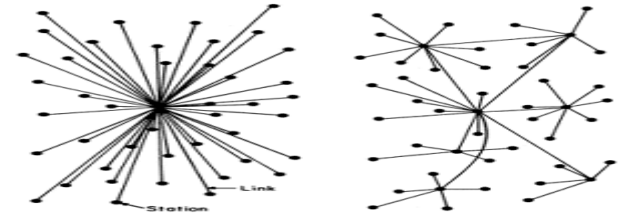


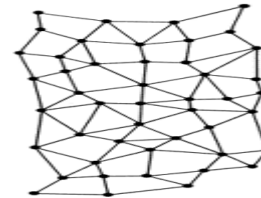
FIG. 1 – Centralized, Decentralized and Distributed Networks

Types of Network

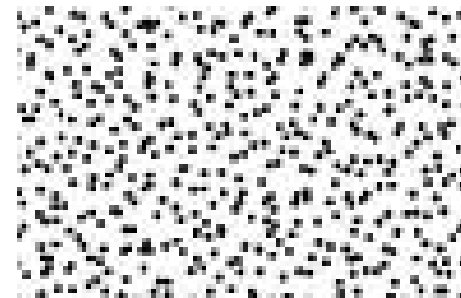
- Collaborative



- Cooperative



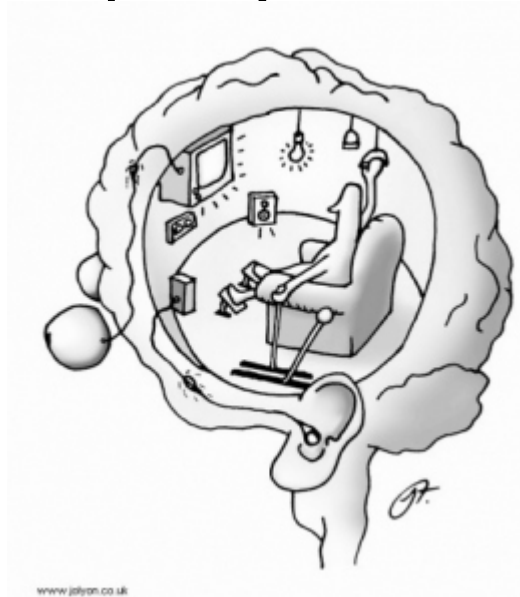
- Competitive



Learning Cultures?

In the previous three days you have explored all aspects of cultures of learning, ranging from digital literacies to learning landscapes, classroom environments, VLEs and open courses.

- ‘Building New Cultures of Learning’ ???
- Ryle – category errors – the mistaking of a compositional property for an emergent property



Learning Cultures?

In the previous three days you have explored all aspects of cultures of learning, ranging from digital literacies to learning landscapes, classroom environments, VLEs and open courses.



But beyond examining the leaves and the trees, what can we say of the forest?

The MOOC



aka. Our effort to actually *demonstrate* the principles of learning we were talking about



Talking With Seb

- Example – 7 million students need math remediation
- Would a MOOC be the answer?
To the subset that is actively looking for the course
- What about the rest?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJWLxoUnIY0&list=UUAF9f1EcwVDM0_QkkAjeN3

Change

"The notion of students as change agents is a relatively new concept."

-- Malcom Ryan



Rachel Winston

Learning culture: students should be active participants in the learning process.

In the bulk of literature, student participation means making selections based on time and effort

Instead: involve and empower students in shaping the learning environment



Why define engagement this way?

- because it's the right thing to do?
- offering an alternative to the consumer model of education (which reduces complex interactions to mere transactions)

Rachel Winston (cont)

What does partnership look like?

- Just as academics are critical, and act to change things active students can do this too

- when that student graduates, she takes that ethos of responsibility into the wider world



A Culture of Learning

A culture of learning – and for that matter, a learning culture – is composed of more than classes and schools and subjects.

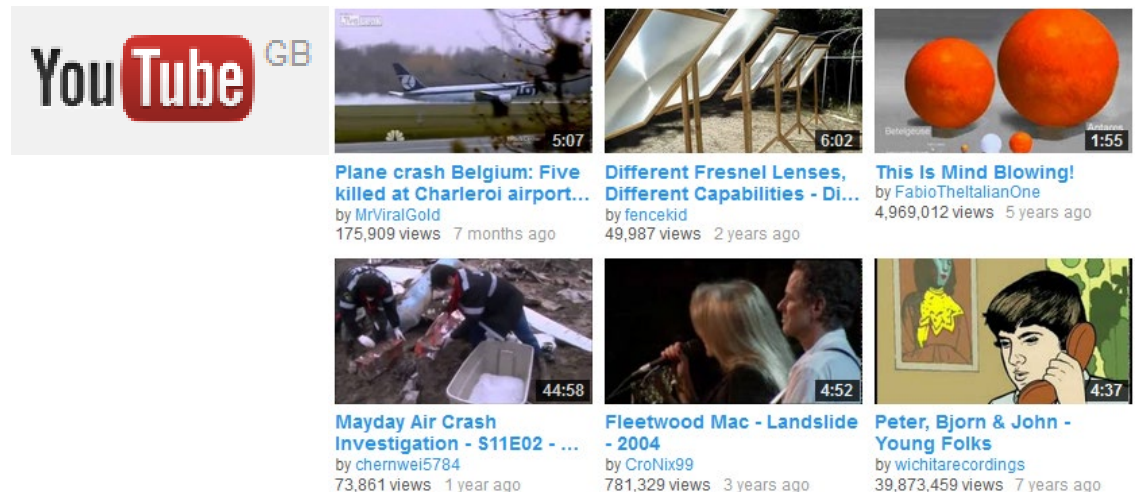
It is composed of the attitudes and enquiries of a culture of experimentation, curiosity, and quirkiness.

SooperMOOC



Google [said yesterday](#) that it will develop software for [edX](#)...

...EdX, a nonprofit created by Harvard and MIT that solicits and distributes online courses for free... the idea is to spur development of so-called massive online open courses, building what edX's president told [Slate](#) could become '[a YouTube for MOOCs](#).



The danger for them is that MOOCs will be:

- something that don't really resemble videos, and instead resemble RSS readers, and
- something created by learners for each other, rather than by publishers to be sold as consumables



What is a MOOC?

by **dave cormier** • 2 years ago • 180,490 views

Written and Narrated by Dave Cormier Video by Neal Gillis Researchers Cormier Alexander McAuley George Siemens ...

HD

4:27

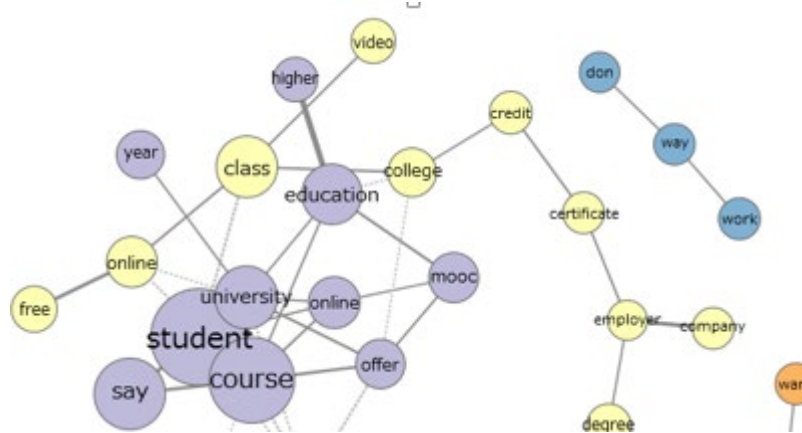


Google Developers Live: Accessibility MOOC

by **GoogleDevelopers** • 1 day ago • 651 views

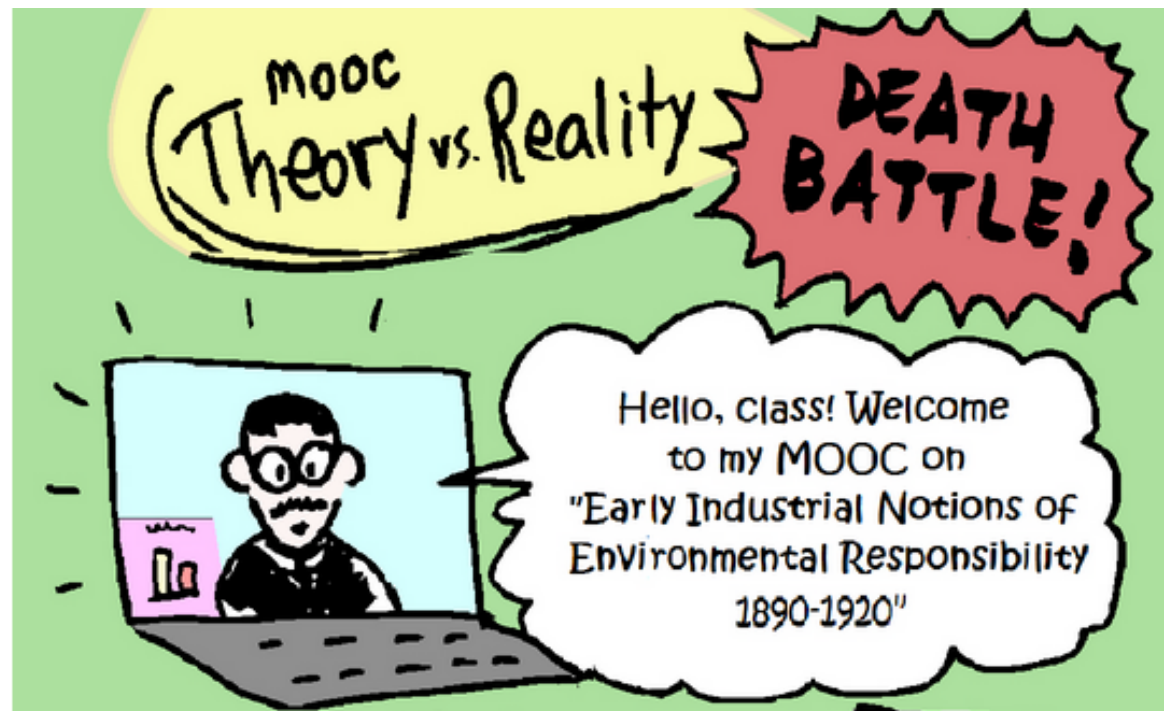
Sign up for Introduction to Web Accessibility at g.co/webaccessibility to discover fast and simple ways to make your websites more

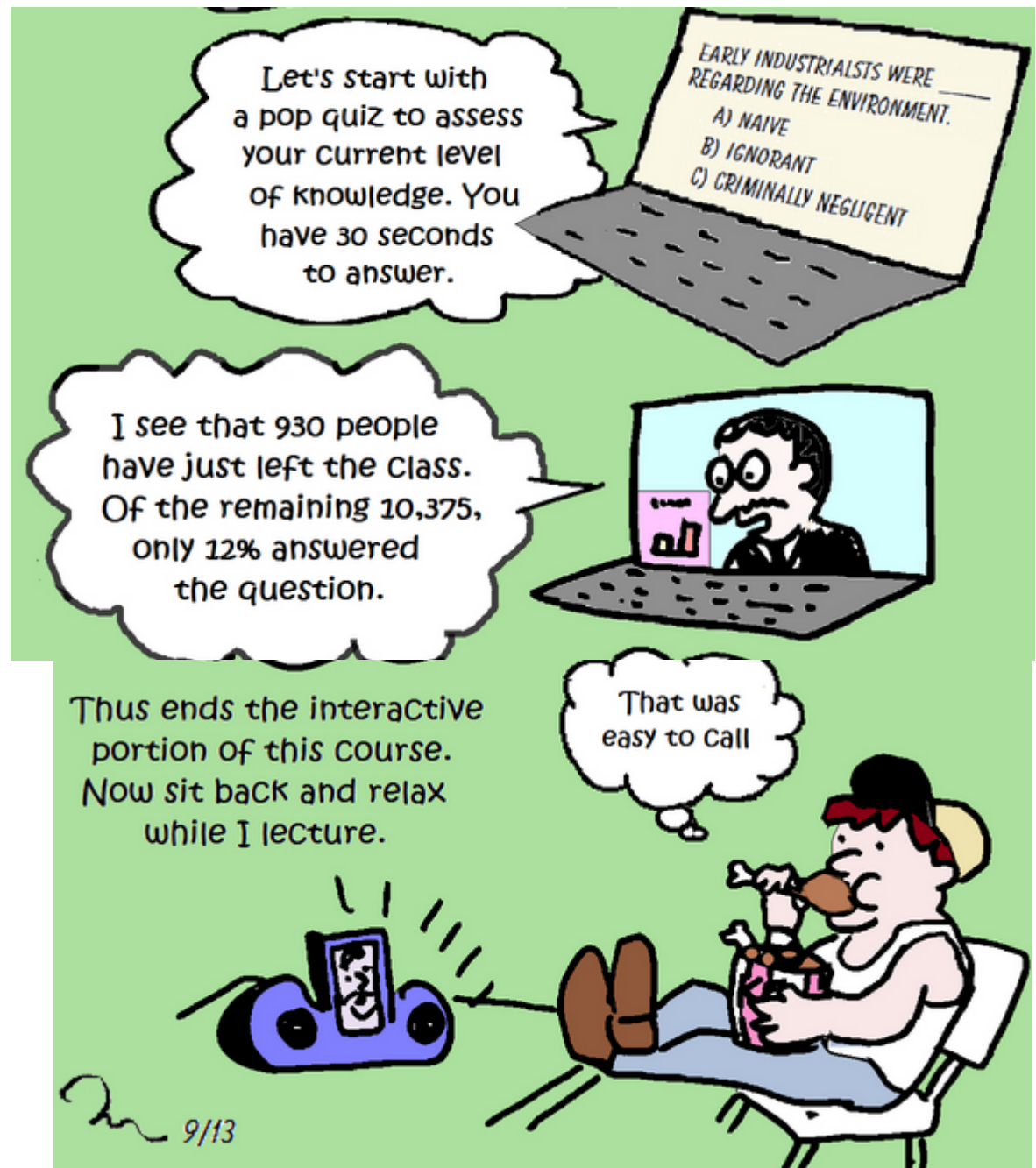
David Kernohan



"*Open* was the first organ that we lost. From a nuanced and specific position in the world of the open educational resource, it is a word reduced to a synonym for two senses of free..."

The Failure of MOOCs?





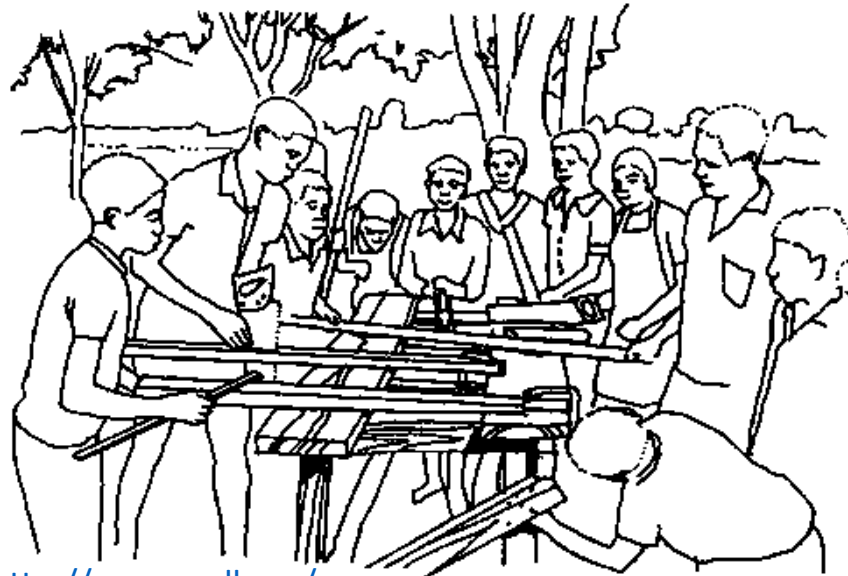
John Clayton

- The 'deficit model' approach - "you are lacking and I will bring you up to speed" - is essentially a broadcast model, *vs*
- Empowerment model - based on learner reflection and decision-making on what *they* want to learn

We say we do this, but then we don't allow this to occur..

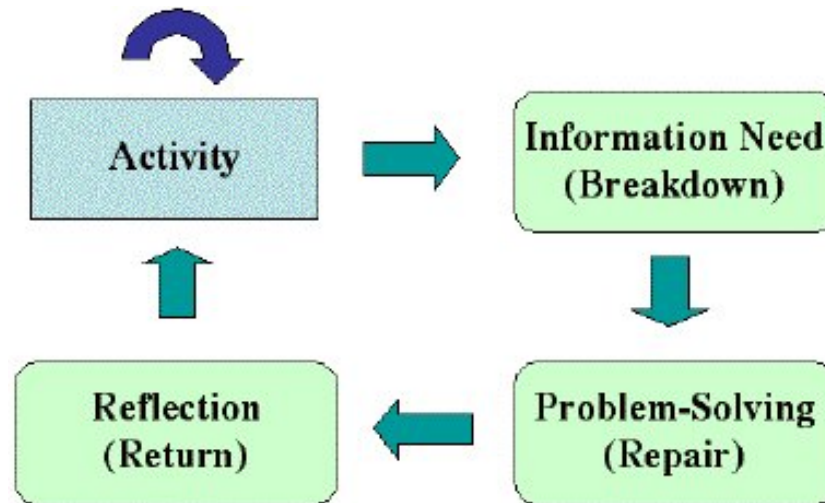
Why Do MOOCs Fail?

- Because they're *courses*
- Because they try to do something *formal* in an environment that is essentially *informal*

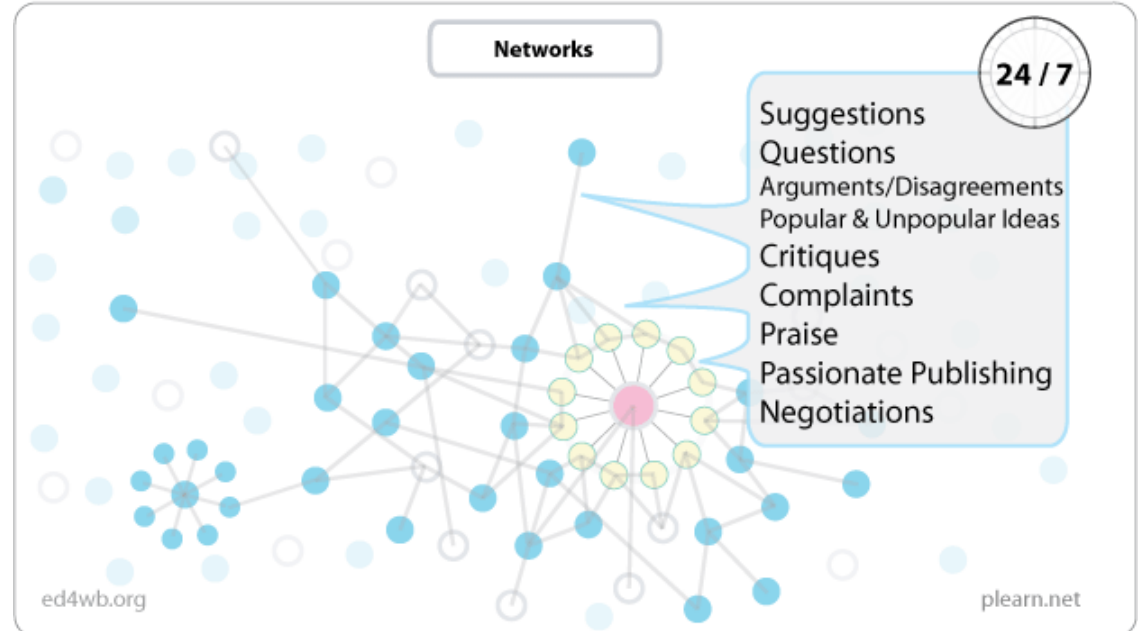
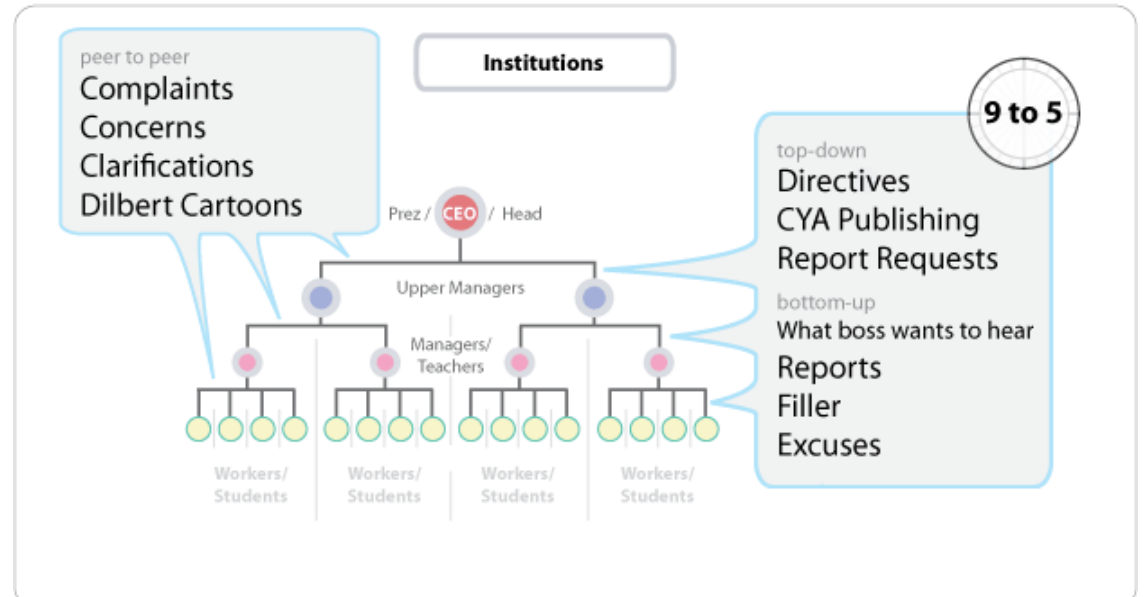


Formal / Informal

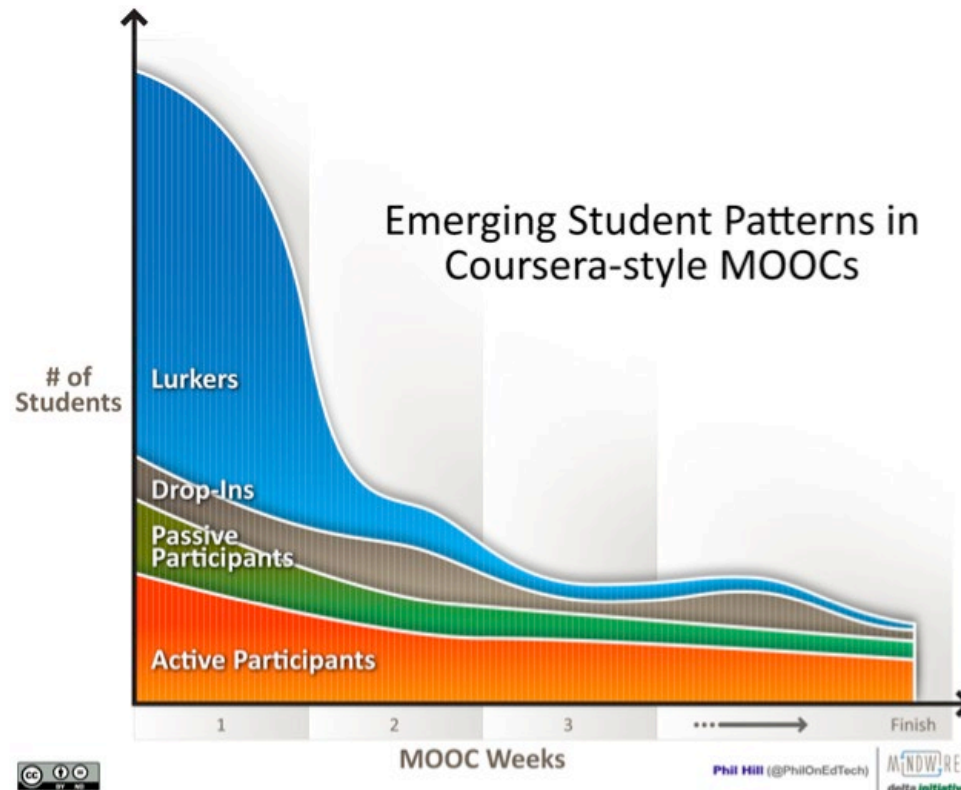
- Formal: dedicated to obtaining or acquiring a base of knowledge
- Informal: dedicated to the completion of some task or activity



What gets communicated



Participation Rates



Phil Hill

http://mfeldstein.com/emerging_student_patterns_in_moocs_graphical_view/

Courses vs....

Anderson: It may be best to conceptualize MOOCs as learning resources (much as a library) that learners can use in very many different ways, with equally diverse learning outcomes.



http://terrya.edublogs.org/2013/06/24/moocs-and-distance-education-institutions/#_ENREF_12

Videos



September 11, 2012 12:42 p.m.
Faking It: How the Media Manipulates the World into War
Globe & Mail
As the US and Iranian governments escalate tensions in the already volatile Straits of Hormuz, and China and Russia begin

openly questioning Washington's interference in their internal politics, the world remains on a knife-edge of military tension. Far from being a dispassionate observer of these developments, however, the media has in fact been central to increasing those tensions and preparing the public to expect a military confrontation. But as the online media rises to displace the tra... []



September 10, 2012 11:48 p.m.
Des balises pour les accommodements religieux
Radio-Canada
La Charte des valeurs

québécoises mettrait en place des balises pour encadrer les accommodements religieux. Ce cadre, no balises feraient en sorte que lorsqu'un accommodement est donné, il respecte nos valeurs communes. Pour en savoir plus, visitez nouveaux.gouv.qc.ca []



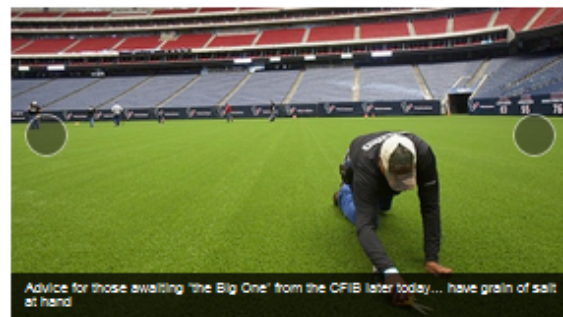
September 10, 2012 4:14 p.m.
Moncton 2013

One day edit shot in the beautiful city of Moncton and Dieppe located in New-Brunswick! Riders featured in this edit: Matt Miller, Travis Brewer, Sebastien LeBlanc, Serg: Avicii - Silhouettes []



September 9, 2012 11:52 p.m.
NWO: DOMINO EFFECT
Mark Howitt
Mark Howitt is an independent researcher

known for his work as a documentary film maker, musician and record label operator, and is also the founder of the World Public Union. He has appeared on many alternative media outlets such as Press For Truth, The Power Hour and other



Advice for those awaiting 'the Big One' from the CFIB later today... have grain of salt at hand

City

September 12, 2012 2:02 a.m.
RCMP searching for dangerous Nova Scotia fugitives, Moncton, N.B.

(Royal Canadian Mounted Police in New Brunswick) Coliac Regional RCMP and the Southeast District RCMP are searching for 2 dangerous men wanted for incidents in Nova Scotia. Coliac Regional RCMP believe that those two men are currently in the Southeast part of New Brunswick. []



September 11, 2012 10:54 p.m.
Le nord du Nouveau-Brunswick un enjeu pour l'Acadie

(Radio-Canada | Acadie) Donald Sirois, professeur à l'Université de Moncton, manifeste une fois de plus de l'inquiétude pour l'avenir de l'Acadie si on ne trouve pas un moyen de relancer l'économie du nord du Nouveau-Brunswick. []

September 11, 2012 5:10 p.m.
Debate brewing over English-only menus at Moncton coffee shop

(CTV News Atlantic - Public RSS) A new Starbucks on Moncton's Main Street is ruffling a few feathers with its English-only signage and menu. []

September 11, 2012 3:41 p.m.
Les Jeux olympiques de 2016 dans la mire d

(Université de Moncton Flux RSS) []

September 11, 2012 2:55 p.m.
RCMP warn the public of fraudulent cheque scam, Moncton, N.B.

(Royal Canadian Mounted Police in New Brunswick) The RCMP New Brunswick Federal Operations East is warning people to be aware of a fraudulent cheque scam that might have victims in New Brunswick. []

September 11, 2012 2:45 p.m.
Sept. 11 1/2: This is simply a footnote to the blog for Sept. 1 - but quite a footnote.

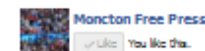
homerp@delcom.com (Globe & Mail) The Canadian Transport Safety Board has announced

Select Language

Translate:

Follow

Facebook



Twitter

Follow @FreeMoncton 54 followers

Subscribe

- RSS Local News Feed
- Daily Email Newsletter

Contribute

- Click here to submit a letter to the editor.
- Click here to submit an article.
- Click here to submit an event.

Events

Got an event? Post it here on Moncton Free Press. Click here.

September 12



Rodney Carrington
Casino NB, 21 Casino Dr., Moncton, NB (Map)
20:00 Rodney Carrington is a multitasking comedian, actor, and writer who has recorded eight major record

label comedy albums selling over 3 million copies. Morning Wood has been certified gold and Greatest Hits has been certified Platinum by the RIAA. Rodney starred in his own TV sitcom Rodney, which ran for two seasons on ABC. He co-wrote and co-starred with Toby Keith in the feature film Beer for My Horses. [Anti in Canadian]

Browsing

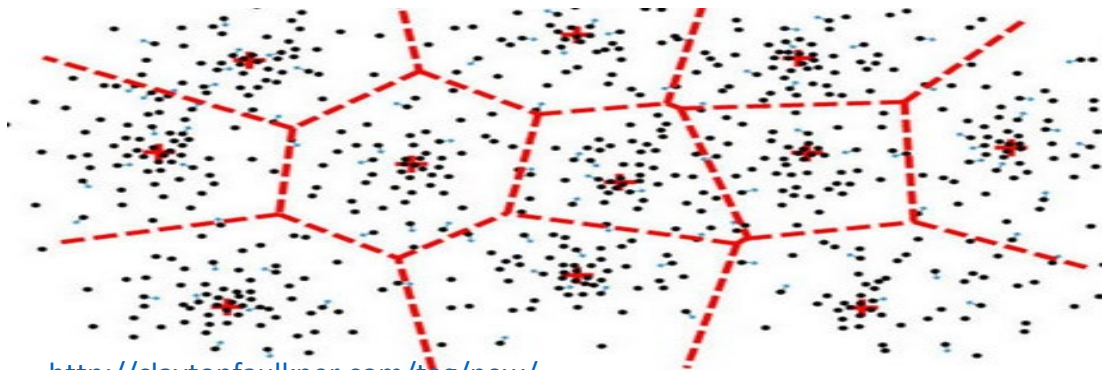
- Compare a MOOC with a newspaper – or with a ...?
- Self-organization = exactly the mechanism by which individuals make decisions, iterated



Emergence

Roy Williams and Jenny Mackness

- we're looking at emergence....
- self-organizing = independent, adaptive, unpredictable
- when you start self-organizing your learning, emergence and emergent learning will occur



Describing Emergence

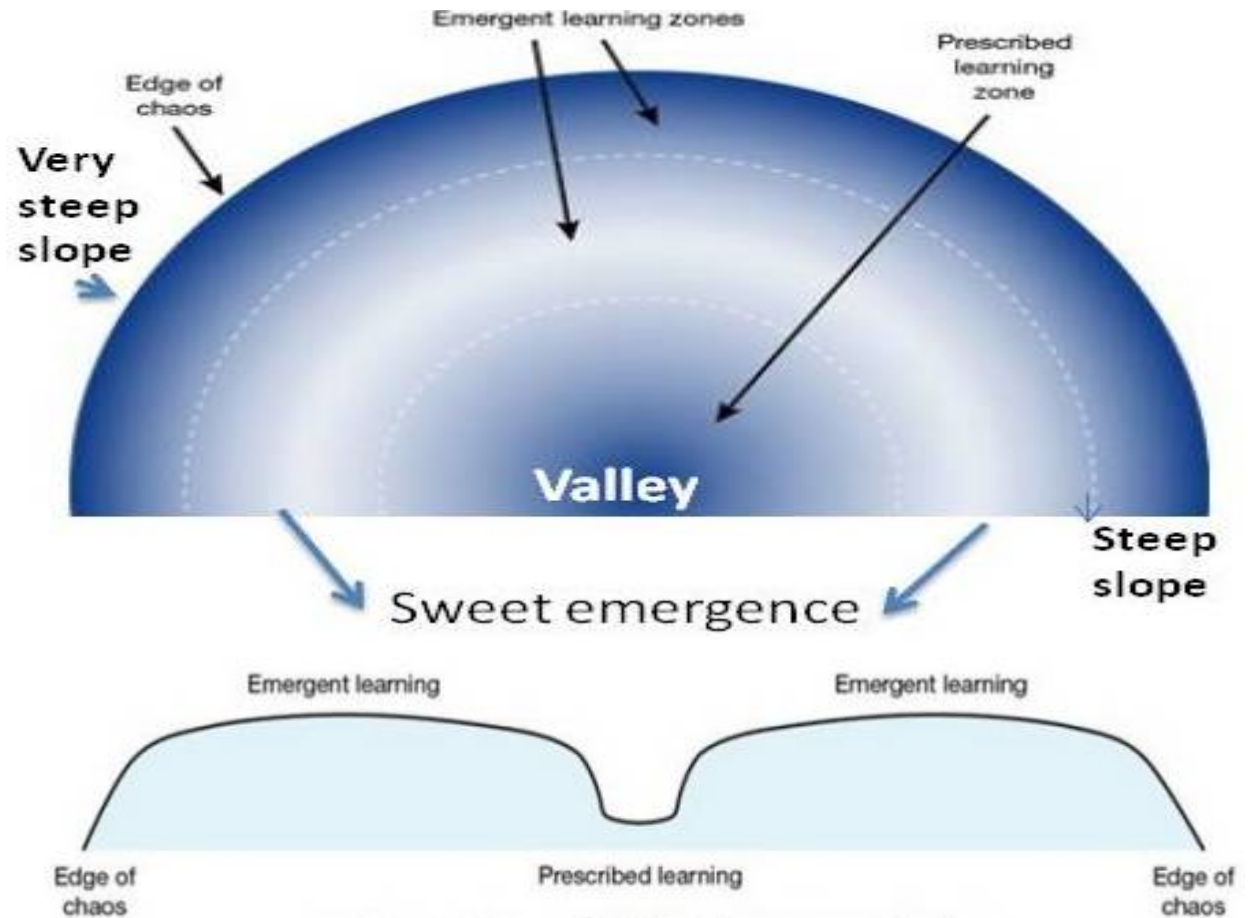
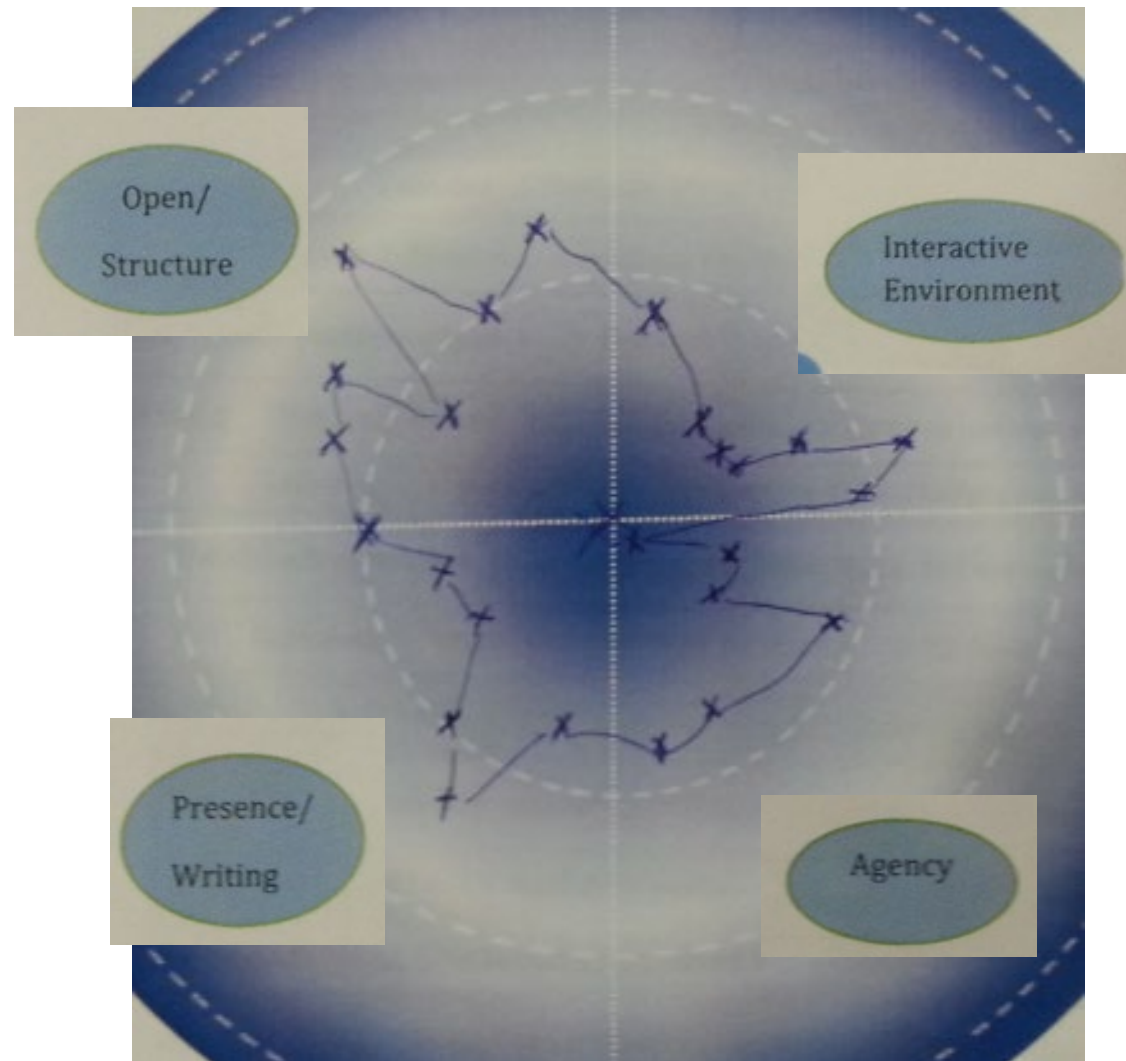


Figure 4. Topographical footprint – cross section view.

Alt-C Style



Order and Chaos

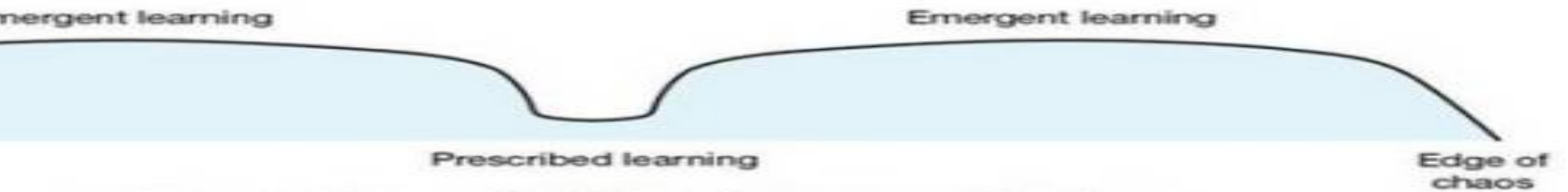
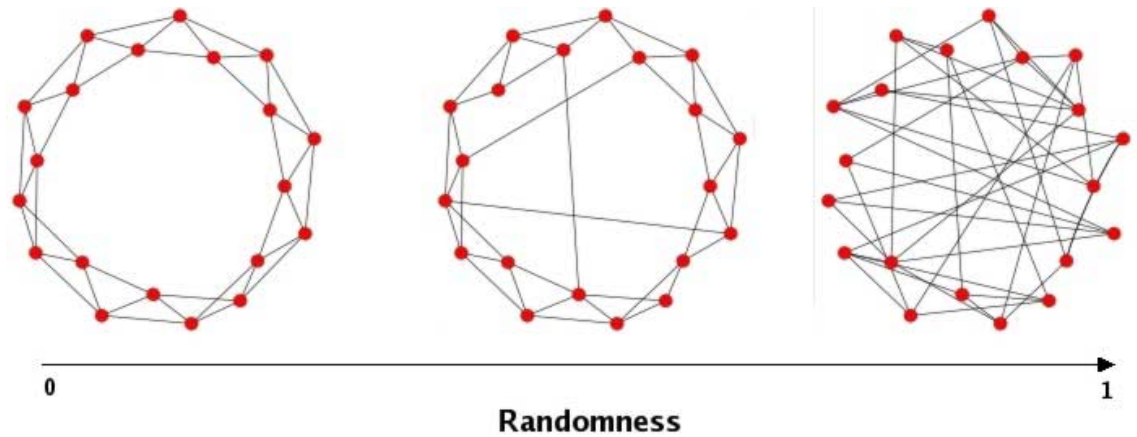
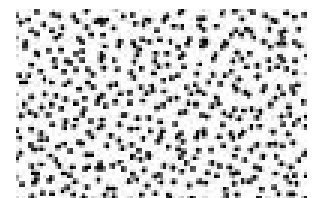
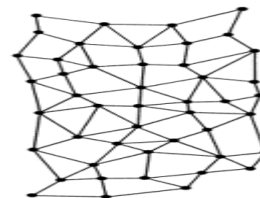
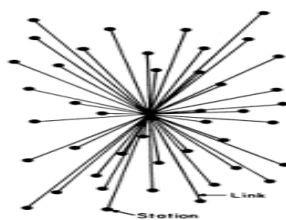
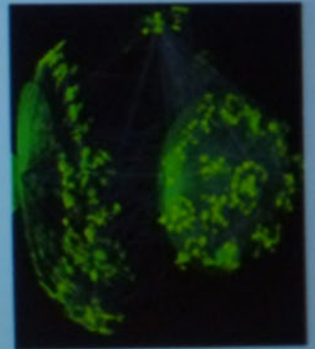
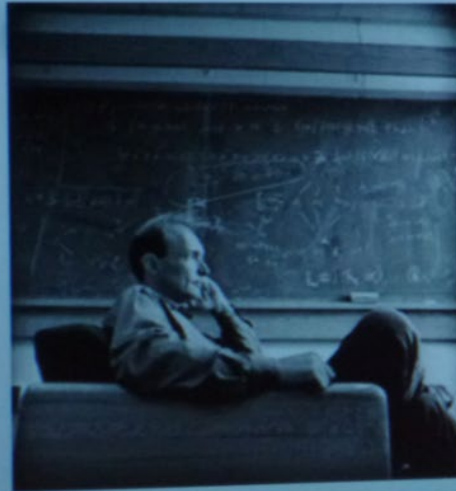


Figure 4. Topographical footprint – cross section view.



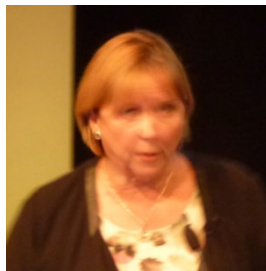
Wendy Hall

The Web – most successful information architecture in history



Why the Web Won

- big is beautiful – one network prevails – think Facebook
- scruffy works: let the links fail to make it scale
- democracy rules: open, free and universal
- but we lost (for a time) conceptual and contextual - the semantic web



Decentralization

Why do MOOC forums fail?



"Ironically, the biggest obstacle preventing MOOC students from forming relationships is the feature most relied on to encourage them."

<http://acreelman.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/the-silent-majority-why-are-mooc-forums.html>

<http://campustechnology.com/Articles/2013/09/03/Building-a-Sense-of-Community-in-MOOCs.aspx>

Decentralization

"online learning is bad because I can't ask questions when I get stuck" (Rob Farmer & Kate Littlemore)



Experiences...

- delivery: daily maintenance, intro week (which was the busiest), after that it was largely self-running (Angie Clonan & Luke Miller)
- the style we adopt as tutors/facilitators shapes the length and tone of students postings (so be careful how you model things) (Helen Whitehead)

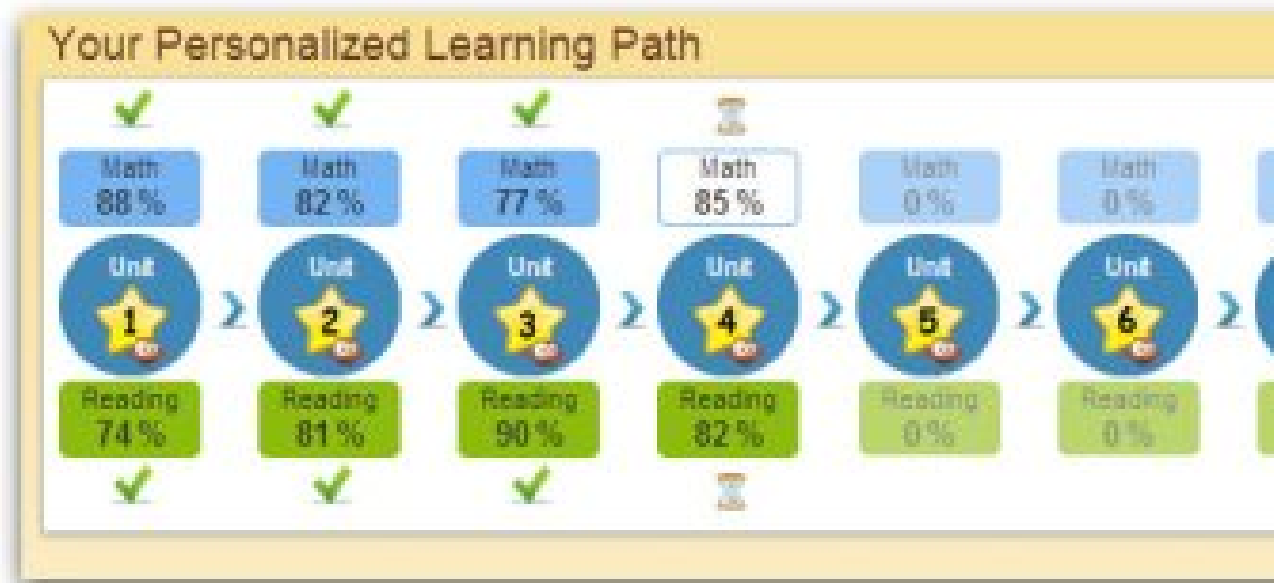
More Experiences...

- the reaction of business people to student interviewers was very different than to staff (Roger Henry)
- change in value proposition - questioning the value of higher ed, driven by enormous costs to attend (Larry Reagan) – analogous to buying a large house in case you are going to have a family

New Models, New Approaches



Personalized...



- Adaptive path
- Custom selection, etc etc

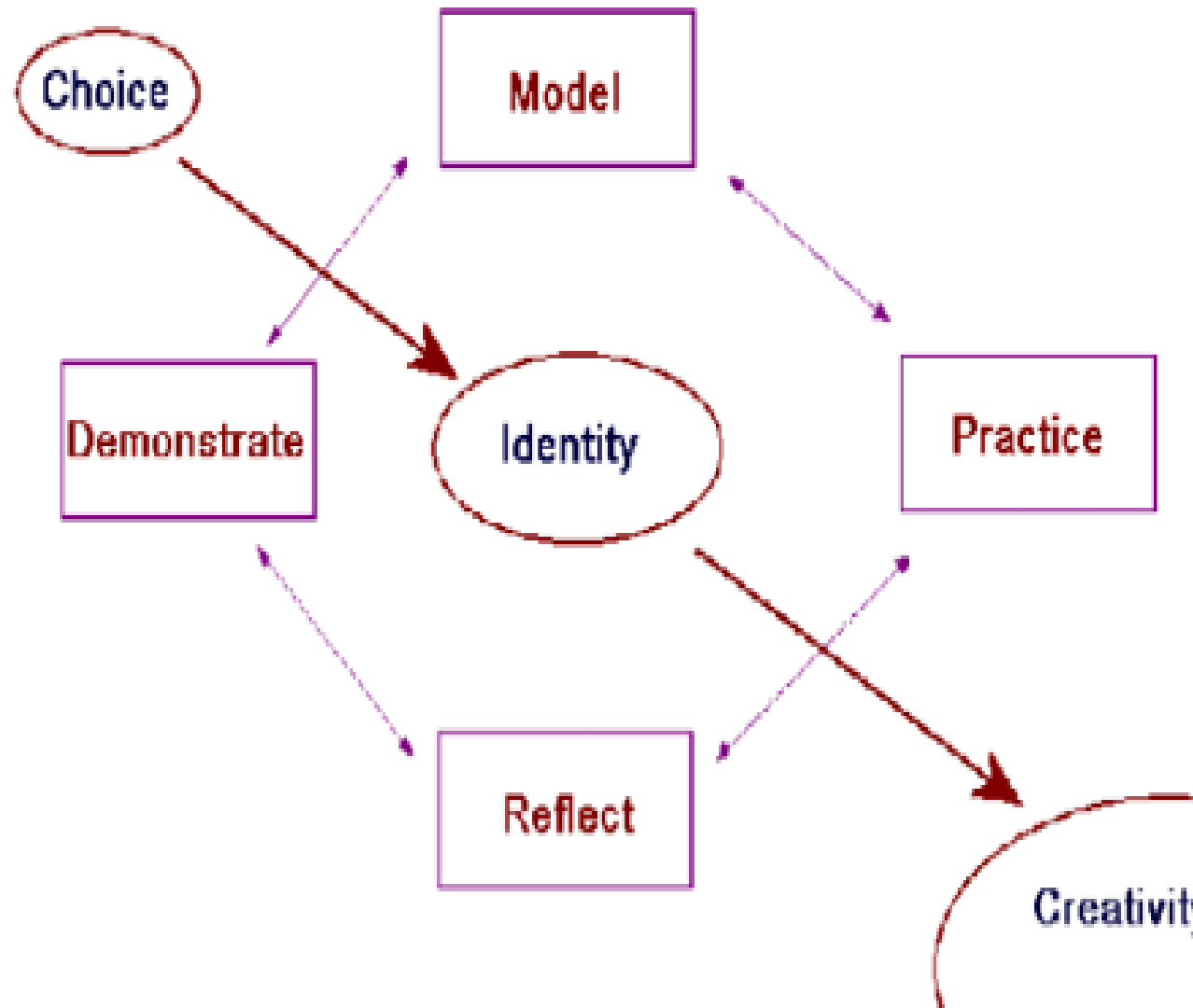
Personal...

To *teach* is to *model* and to *demonstrate*
To *learn* is to *practice* and *reflect*



Sharing experience vs describing and telling...

Learning Environment



Evaluating Outcomes

What is success in a MOOC –
can only be observed from
outside the MOOC

- model of emergent knowledge that develops inside the MOOC
- did it take shape, replicate or influence the world outside (was the MOOC an agent of *change*?)

Being Open

Brian Lamb: We share a dedication to working in ways that exploit network effects to inform, amplify and augment our practice. We share what we do because it feels good, because it makes what we do better, because it represents a human-scale way of being, one with global reach.

<http://abject.ca/open-for-business/>

What Difference Will MOOCs Make?



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaOC9danxNo>

https://twitter.com/Cmdr_Hadfield

What Are Cultures of Learning?



What we do, what we model,
what we share, what we create...



Stephen Downes

<http://www.downes.ca>