

# MOOC – Diversity and Community in Online Learning

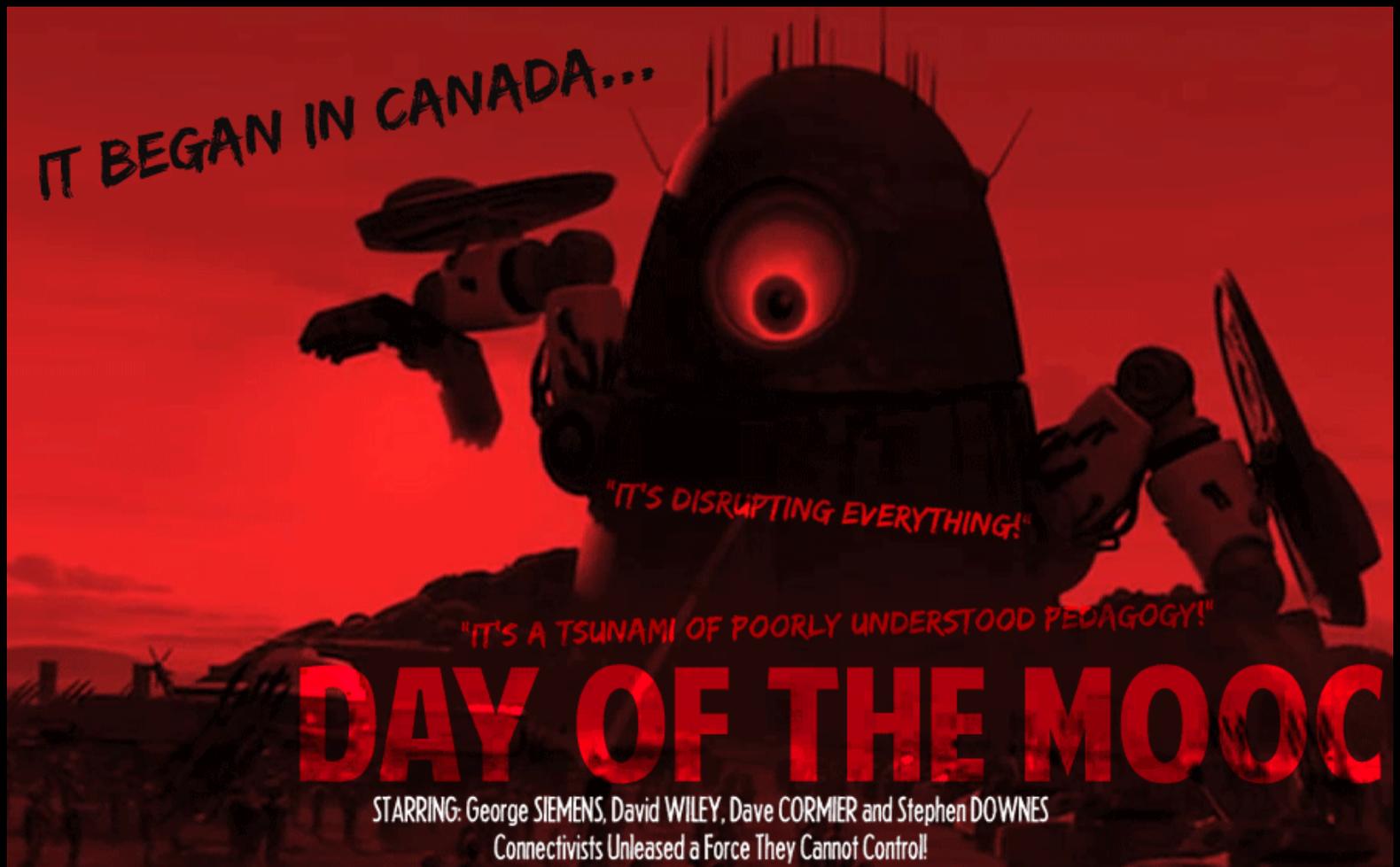


Stephen Downes

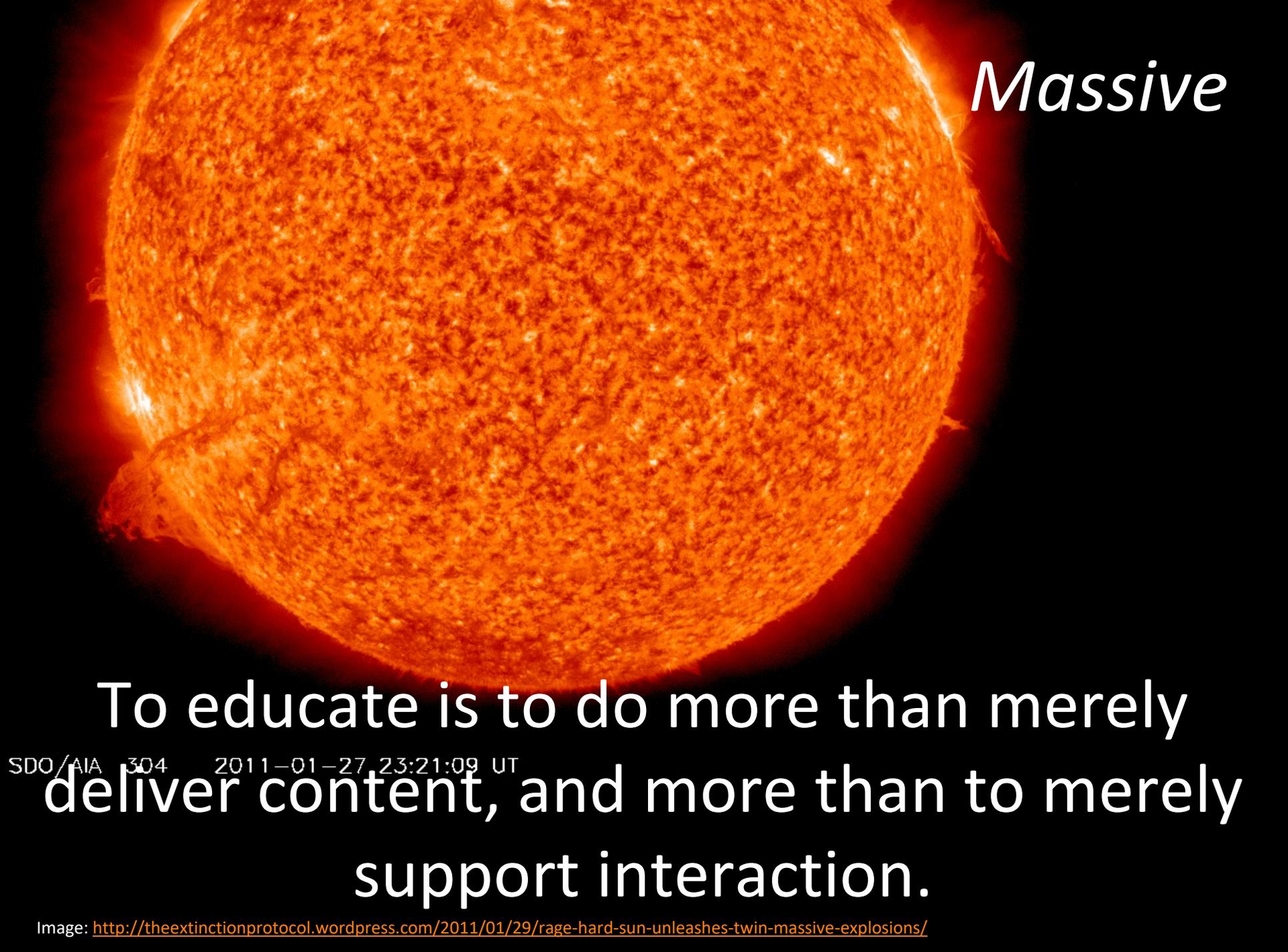
26 November 2013

Lyon, France





...my understanding of the term 'MOOC' is based on five years of experience developing and offering MOOCs



*Massive*

To educate is to do more than merely  
deliver content, and more than to merely  
support interaction.

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# *Ouvert*



ENTRÉE LIBRE ET GRATUITE

OUVERT  
À TOUS

AUCUNE  
INVITATION NECESSAIRE

Think of a course as like a language. If a language is closed, it dies. If people are not allowed to speak it, it dies.



*En ligne*

Being online is what makes it possible for these courses to be both massive and open

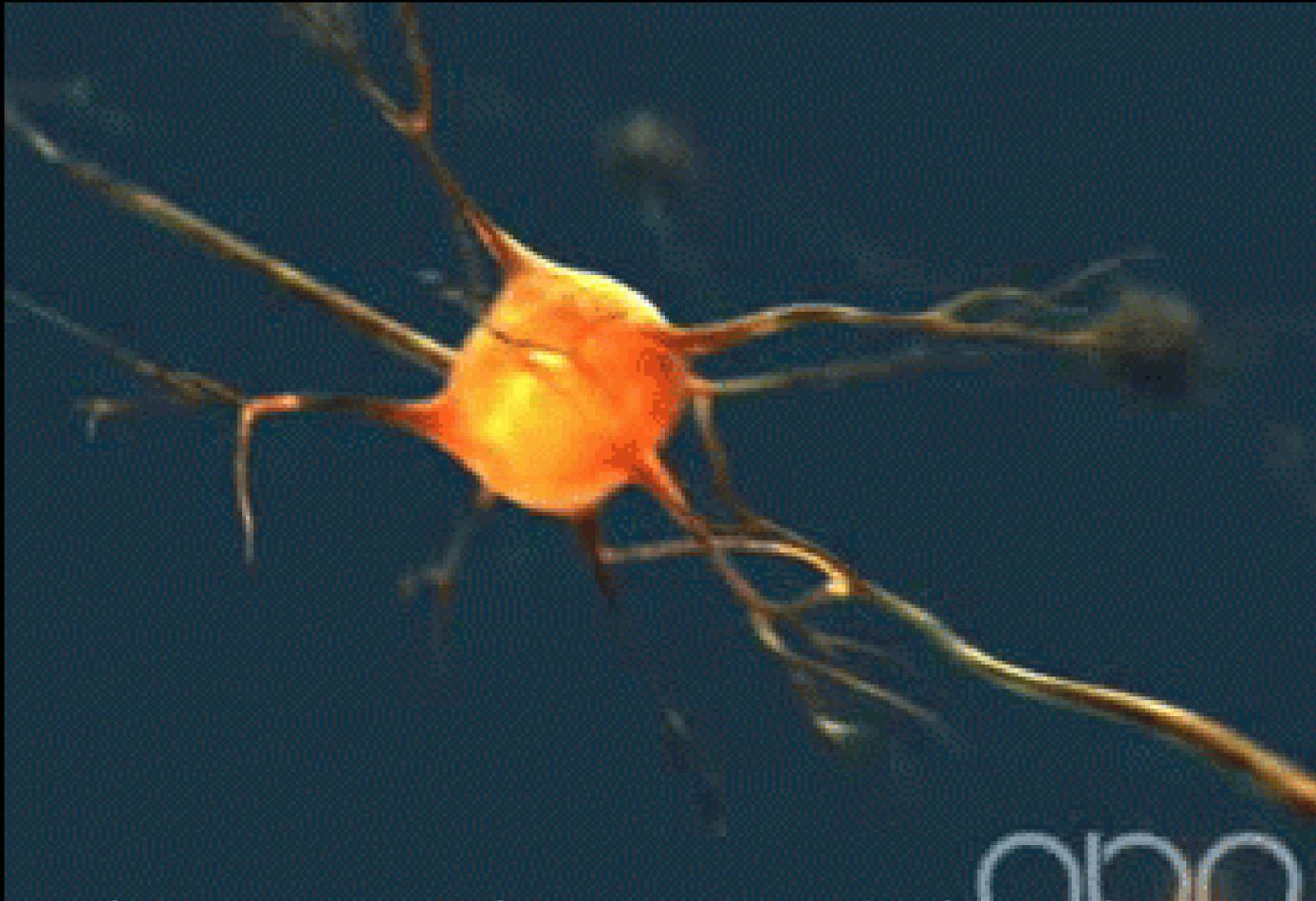
# *Cours*



The creation of temporary and bounded events allows for engagement between communities that would not normally associate with each other



What is important about a connectivist course is not the course content.



The things we learn and the things we know are literally the connections we form between neurons.



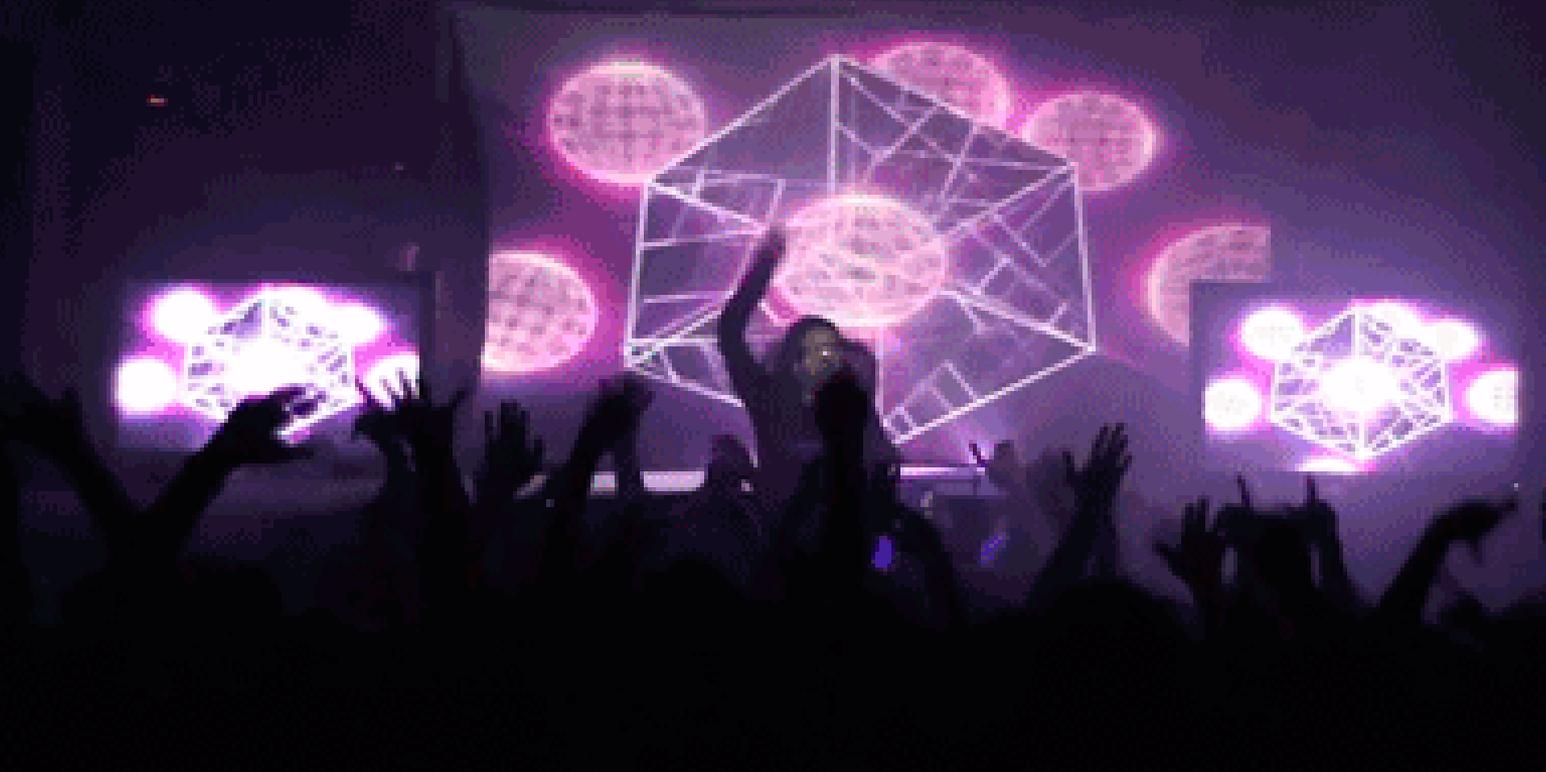
It is essential to immerse oneself in the day-to-day activities and culture of the people who speak it.

# *Agrégation*



Each person creates their own perspective on the material by selecting what seems important to them.

# *Restructuration*



What we are encouraging here especially is a mixing of diverse cultures.

# *Adaptation*



Learning is not simply a process of reception and filtering.

# *Circulation de l'information*



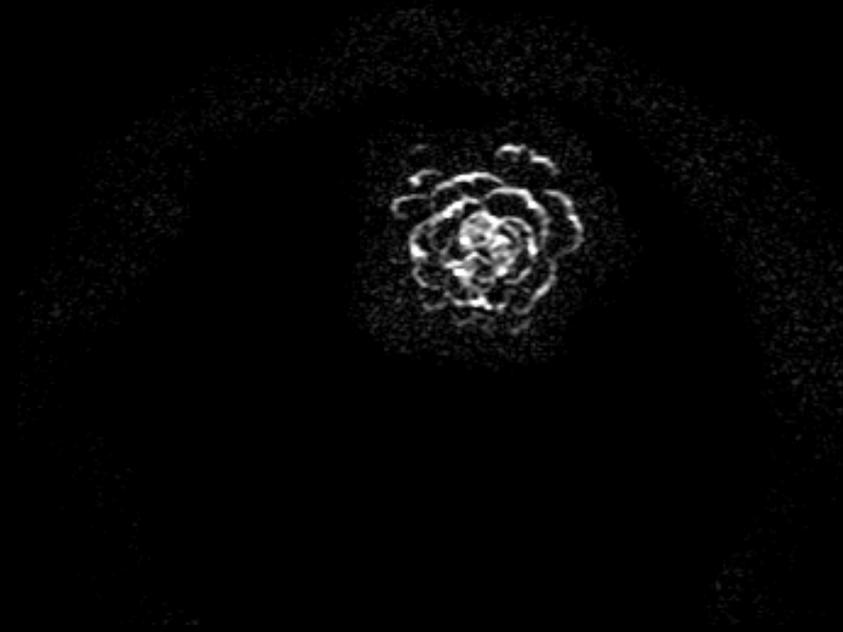
Sharing in public is harder.  
But it's better.



...the idea of using massive open  
online learning to promote diversity in  
language and culture.



It is tempting to say a person takes a course to learn something



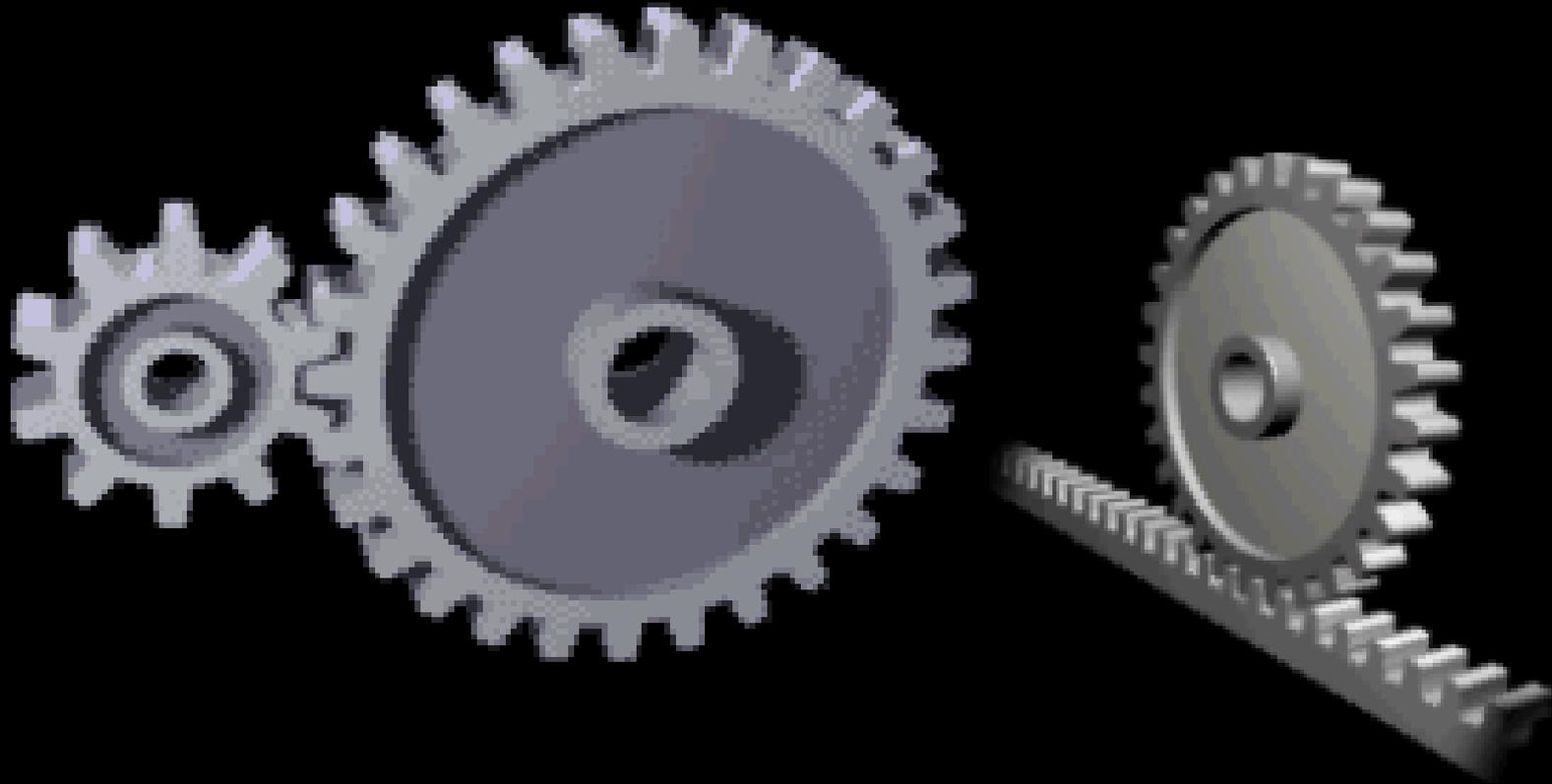
The course design gradually began to look less and less like a traditional course, and more like a network



The participants in our MOOCs also demonstrated a similarly wide range of motivations.



There are different senses of learning.



We do not create a MOOC to *send* a message; the MOOC *is* the message.



...is to learn the habits, patterns, ways of thinking and ways of thinking characteristic of that discipline.



It is the creation of this community that constitutes the core activity of a MOOC.

# *Communauté en ligne*



They are formed around a topic of interest, a profession, or a domain.

The screenshot shows the MySEIG website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with icons for Home, Project, Publication, Forum, and Activity. Below this, on the left side, is a dark sidebar containing a 'SIGN UP' button, a section for 'ALREADY A MEMBER?' with input fields for 'Email' and 'Password', and a 'LOGIN' button. The main content area on the right features a paragraph about software engineering, a heading 'What is MySEIG?', and a sub-paragraph explaining the group's purpose. Below the text is a large group photograph of members, and to the right of the photo is a sidebar with additional content and images.

. Communities form around a topic of interest ... and they share a practice

# *Communauté de pairs*



They are just people who meet by happenstance, and find an affinity for each other.

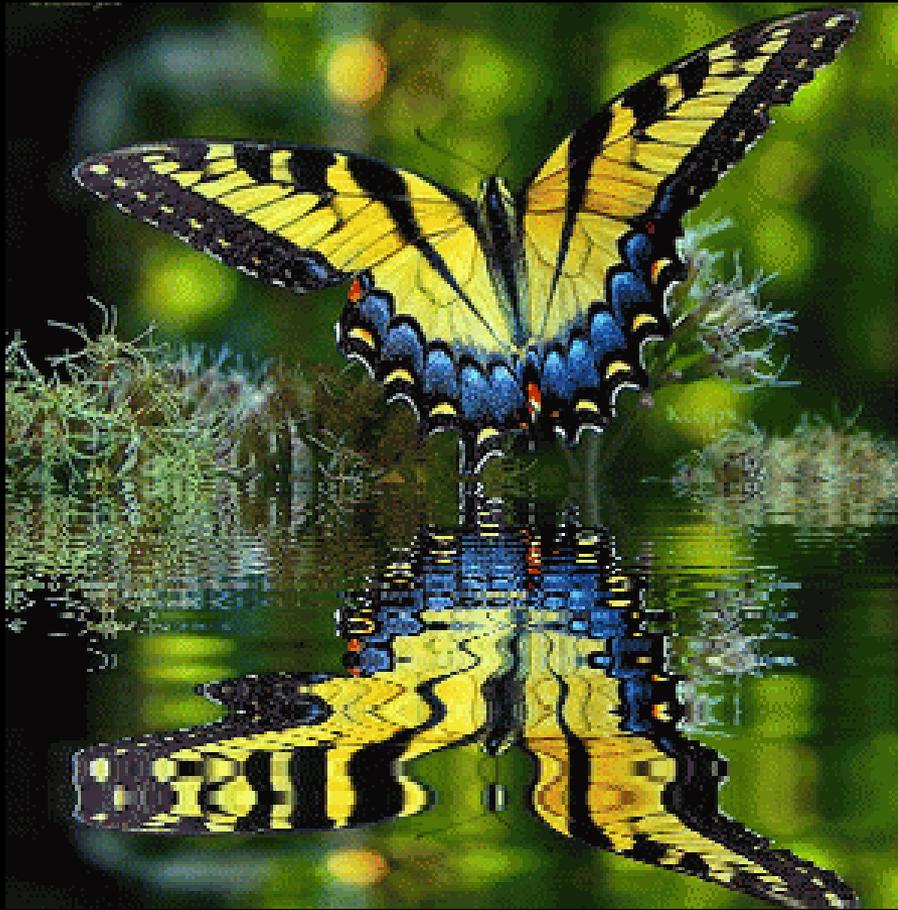


Peer communities are activity based



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People talk of ‘learning communities’  
but strictly speaking there is no such  
thing as a ‘learning community’



It should be a truism today that communities are grown rather than constructed.



Le risque est ce que la culture la plus  
grande finira par dominer les  
institutions sociales et politiques



Diverse languages and culture belongs  
in all courses and communities



The MOOCs we designed and developed  
were explicitly designed to support  
participation from a mosaic of cultures.

HANSTHECDOE



The process of learning is a process of becoming, a process of developing one's own self.

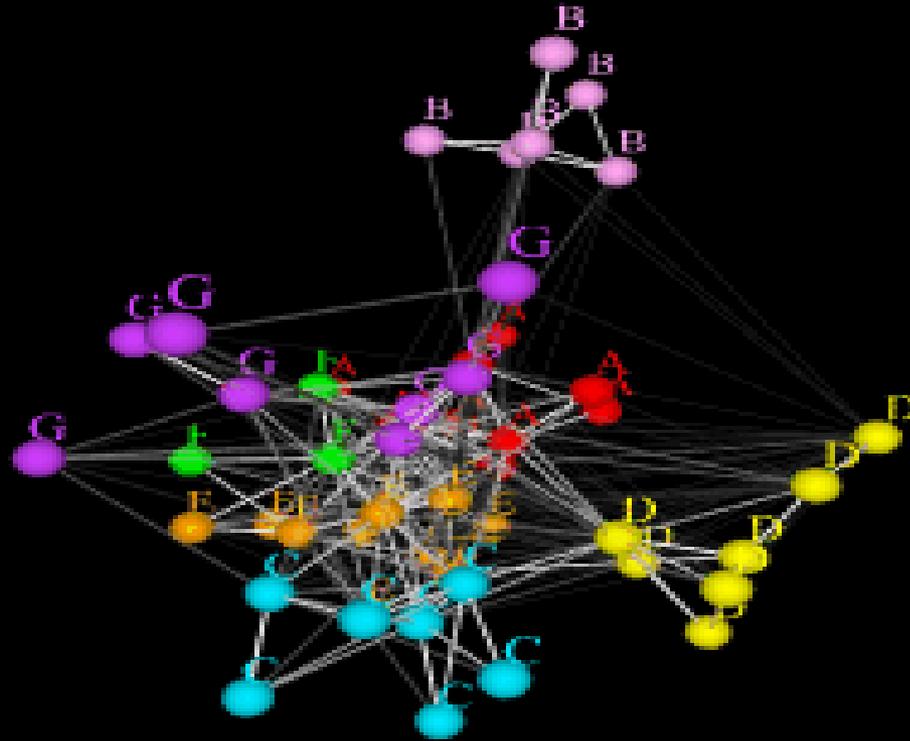


MOOCs are communities in which learners can immerse themselves and grow into something new.

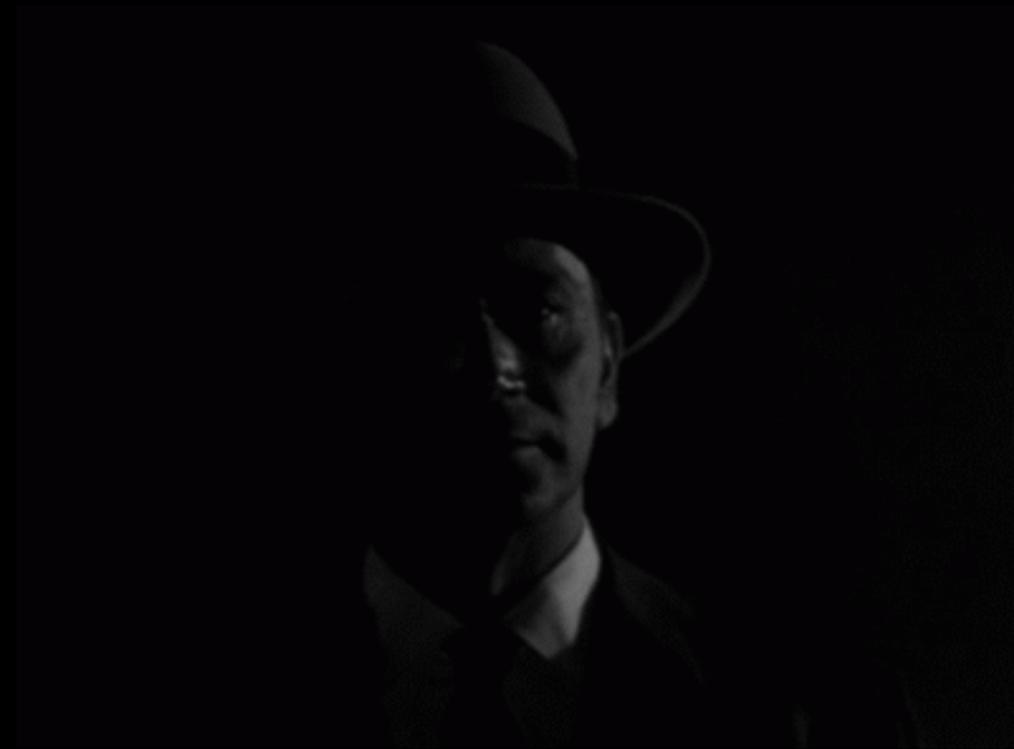
Demo.fsx

```
F# Interactive  
Microsoft (R) F# Interactive version 11.0.50727.1  
Copyright (c) Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved.  
For help type #help;;  
>
```

Local support offered for participation in online courses offered in a variety of languages at a variety of locations around the world.



Il ne sera pas suffisant de simplement rédiger du contenu et d'offrir des cours.



[www.downes.ca](http://www.downes.ca)