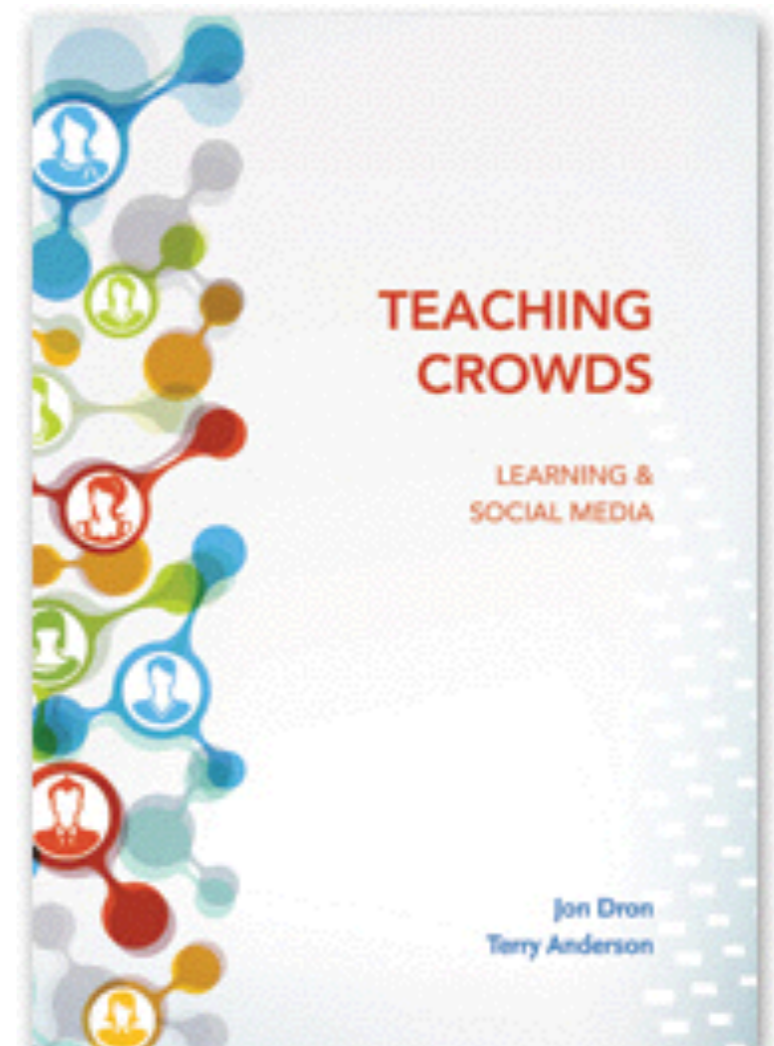


# A learner's guide to nurturing wise crowds and taming stupid mobs

EdMedia 2015, Montreal

Jon Dron\*, Athabasca University, Canada



*\*with a huge HT to Terry Anderson*

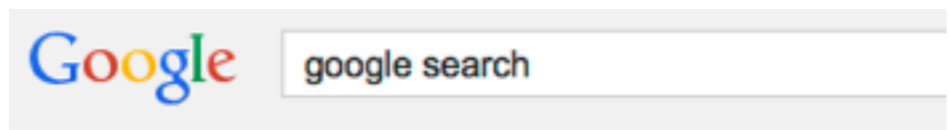
"The next big killer application for the Internet is going to be education. **Education over the Internet is going to be so big it is going to make e-mail usage look like a rounding error** in terms of the Internet capacity it will consume."

John Chambers, COMDEX '99 conference



You want to learn  
something.

What do *you* do?



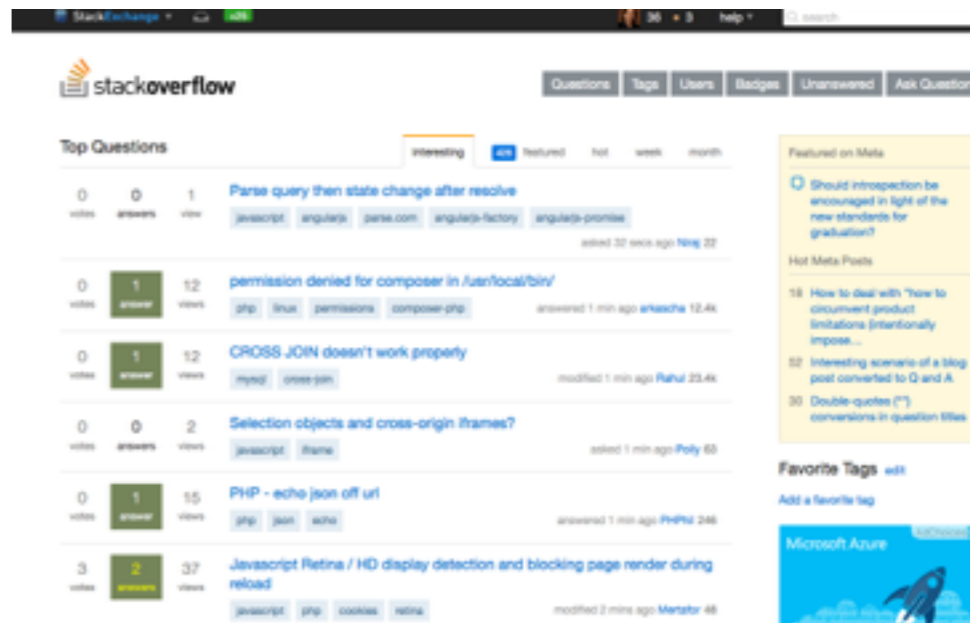
Web News Images Maps Video

About 101,000,000 results (0.44 seconds)

Google

https://encrypted.google.com/

Search the world's information, including webpage has many special features to help you find exactly



# WIKIPEDIA

**English**  
The Free Encyclopedia  
4 826 000+ articles

**Русский**  
Свободная энциклопедия  
1 156 000+ статей

**日本語**  
フリー百科事典  
930 000+ 記事

**Français**  
L'encyclopédie libre  
1 553 000+ articles

**Italiano**  
L'enciclopedia libera  
1 150 000+ voci

**Español**  
La enciclopedia libre  
1 132 000+ artículos

**Deutsch**  
Die freie Enzyklopädie  
1 767 000+ Artikel

**中文**  
自由的百科全书  
791 000+ 條目

**Português**  
A enciclopédia livre  
846 000+ artigos

**Polski**  
Wolna encyklopedia  
1 070 000+ haseł




- What To Watch
- My Channel
- My Subscriptions
- History
- Watch Later 60
- Purchases 1



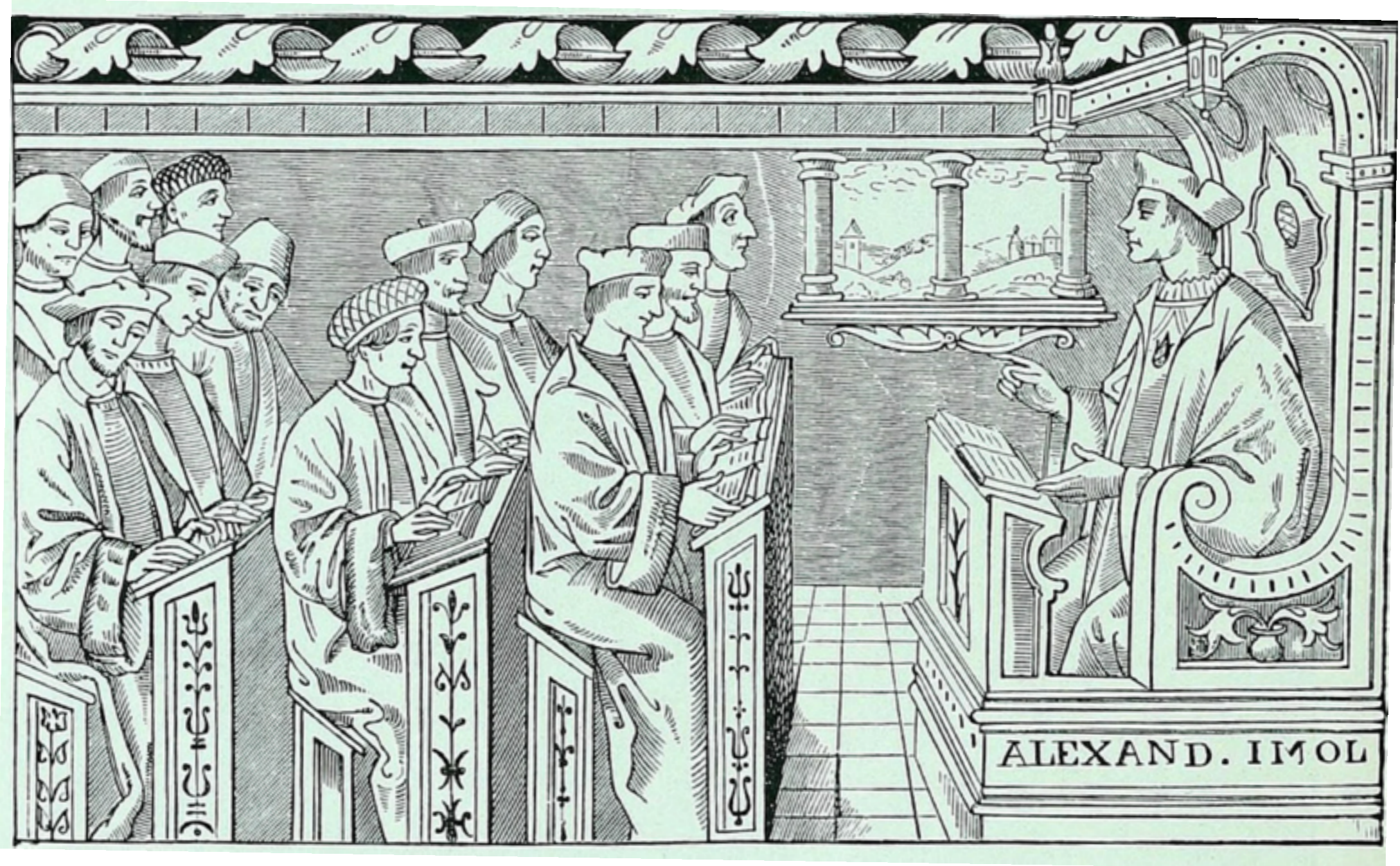
# SMS



Inspiring  
Teachback  
Filtering  
Motivating  
Problem sharing  
Protecting  
Challenging  
Confirming  
Alternative perspectives  
Sharing  
Problem solving  
Critiquing  
Identity forming  
Affirming  
Giving permission  
Supporting  
Finding  
Division of labour  
Encouraging  
Sharing  
Caring  
Validation



and yet...





So, what do teachers  
actually do?

<http://padlet.com/jondron/teachers>



**organizing**

managing finding telling

filtering guiding showing

modelling designing sharing

**supporting**

caring connecting

problematizing resolving

challenging inspiring

encouraging protecting

assessing helping

forming



# The Legend of the Lone Teacher

How many teachers are there in this picture?





How many teachers are there in this picture?

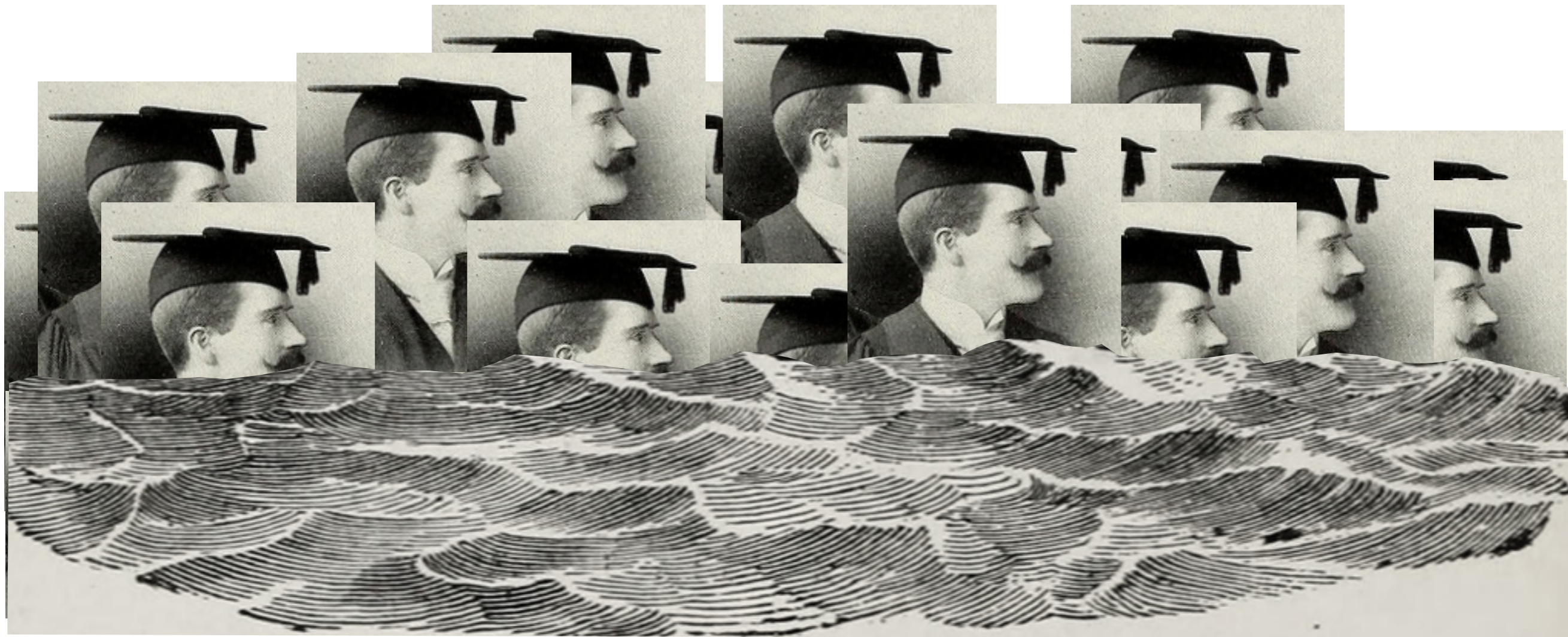


# Timetables teach too

Tue	29 May	9:00	W2**	1hr30m	
Tues	29 May	9:30	W306	3 Hrs	Baib.4.
Tues	29 May	9:30	W502	3 Hrs	Acca.1
Tue	29 May	9:30	W507	2hrs	BEng/MEng CIVIL ENGI
Tue	29 May	9:30	W509	2hrs	BEng/MEng CIVIL ENGI
Tue	29 May	9:30	W623	2 hrs	PCS
Tues	29 May	10:00	W303	2 hrs	INAM
Tues	29 May	13:00	W303	1 hr	INAM
Tue	29 May	14:00	W306	2 hrs	
Tues	29 May	14:00	W507	2 Hrs	Baba-Hnd.1
Tue	29 May	14:00	W509	2hrs	BEng/MEng CIVIL ENGI
Tue	29 May	15:00	W303	2 hrs	
Tues	29 May	15:00	W623	3hrs+	M Pharm

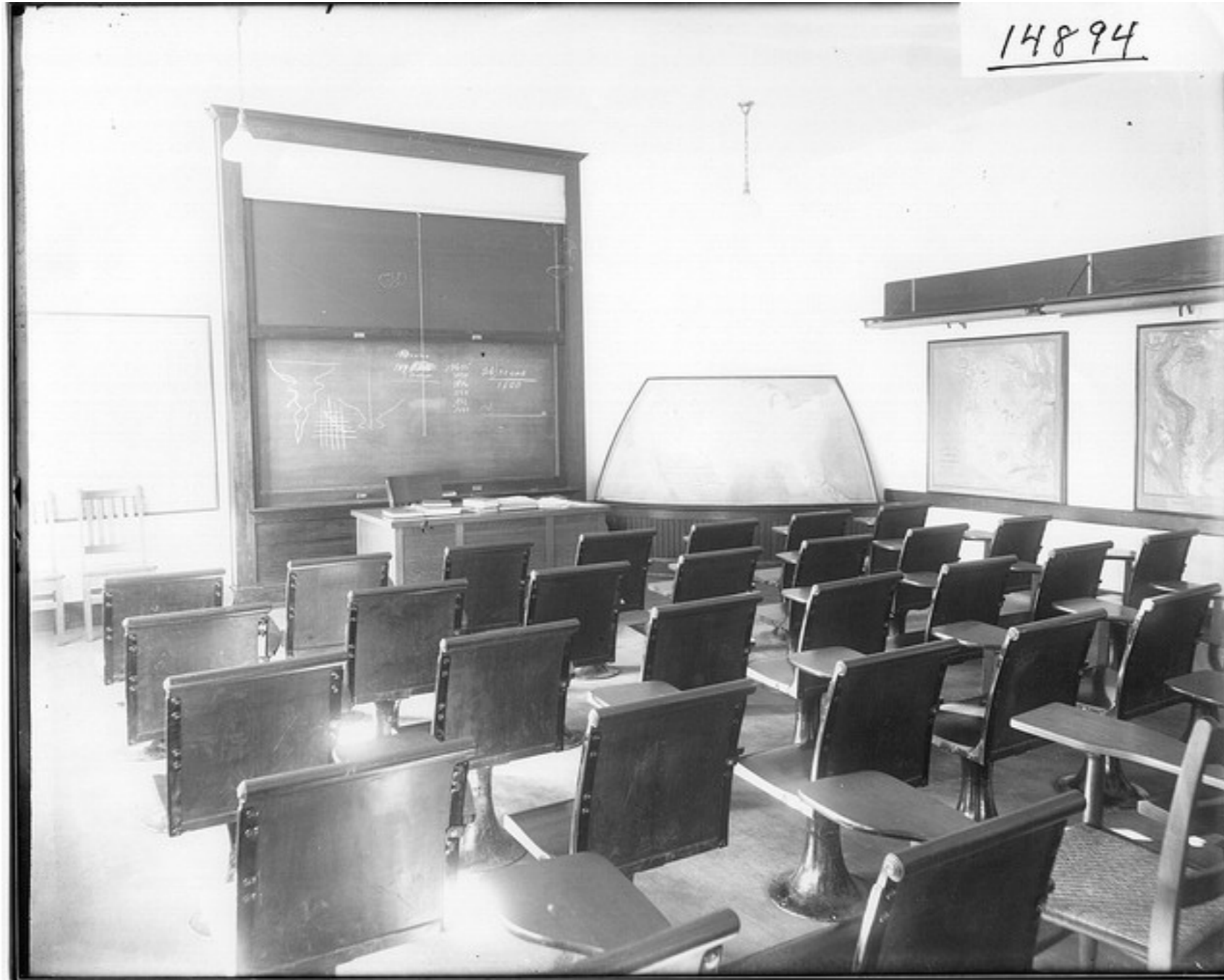
\* = some students may take extra time (15 mi





We are swimming in a sea full of teachers, and we are all teachers.  
*So what is going on here?*

# How it all began...



**classes**

**faculties**

semesters

**terms**

**schools**

universities

tests

textbooks

**accreditation**

**timetables**

assignments

exams

seminars

**What follows**

convocations

lectures

tutorials

**courses**

**programs**

**curricula**

**learning outcomes**

libraries

desks

**rules & regulations**

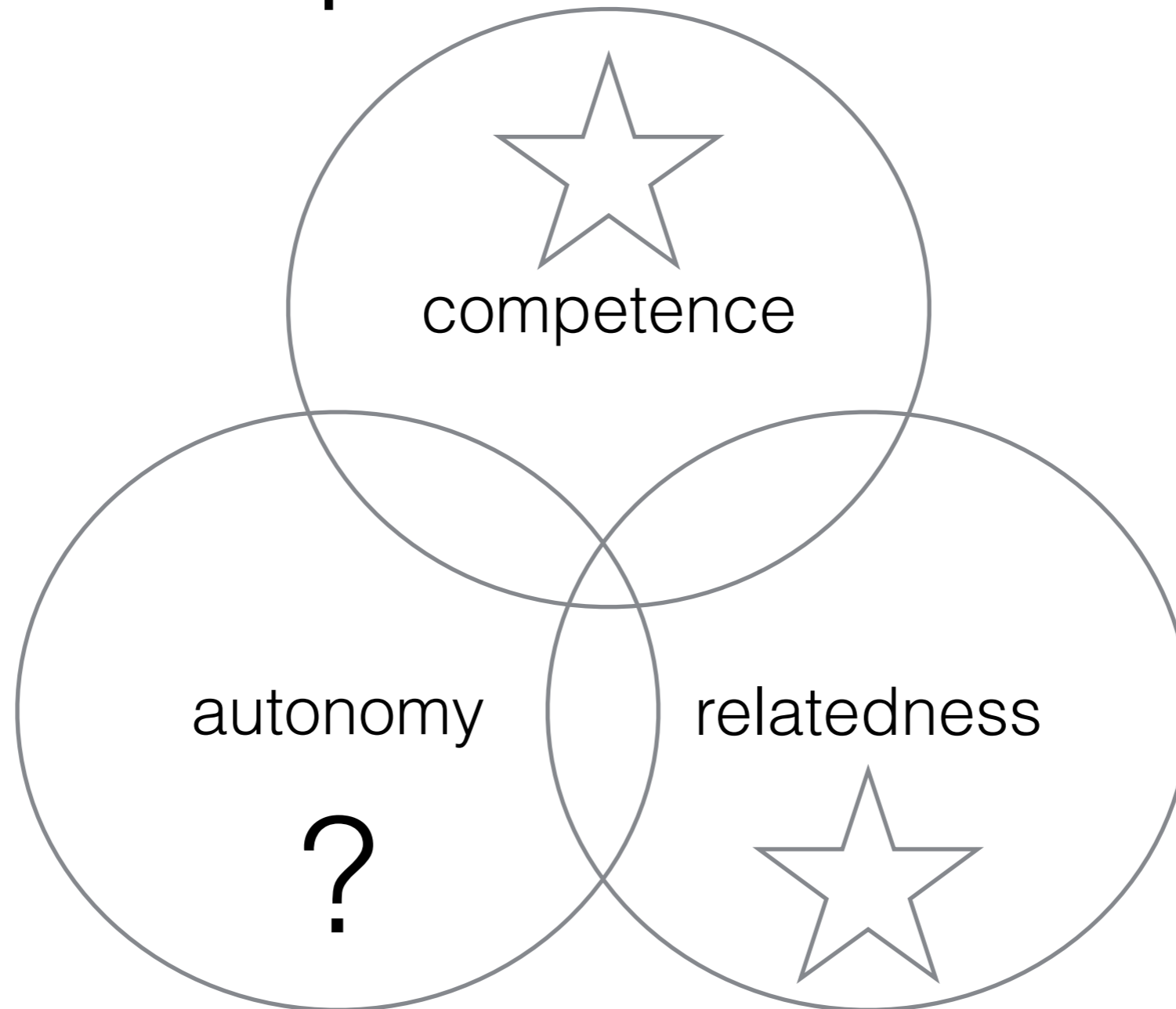
And, most importantly...



people that *do not want to be there*  
a context that is *by definition*  
demotivating



# Classroom motivation problems

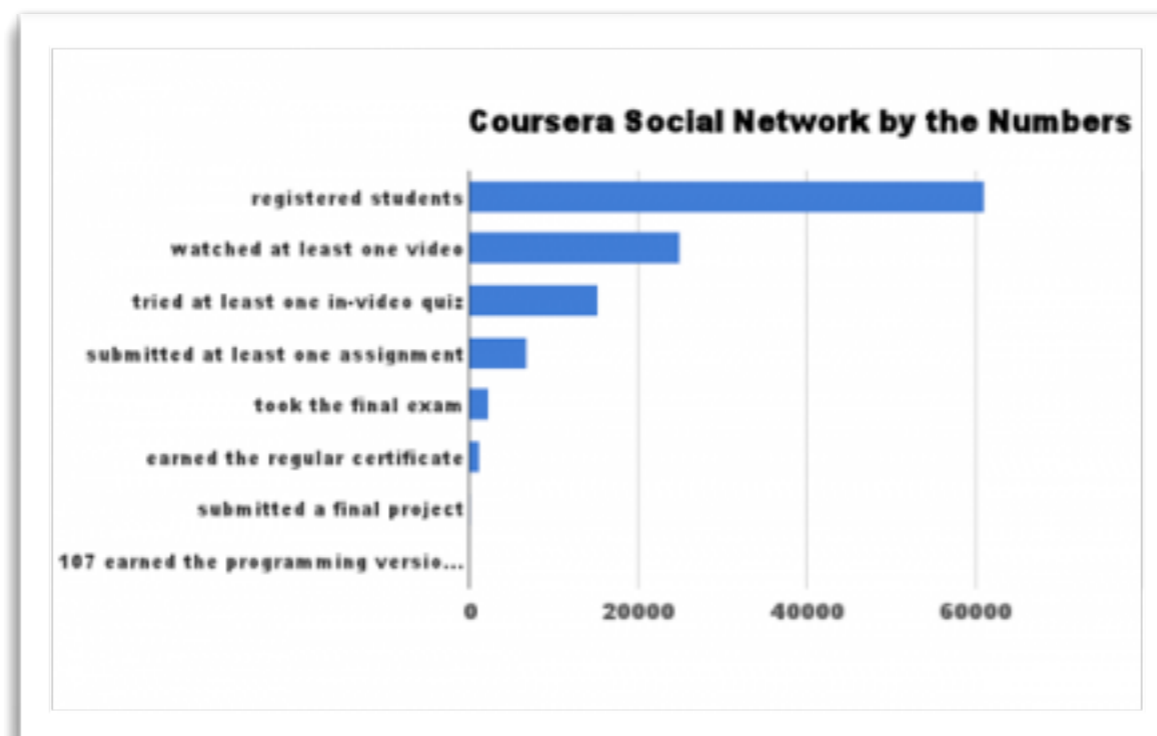




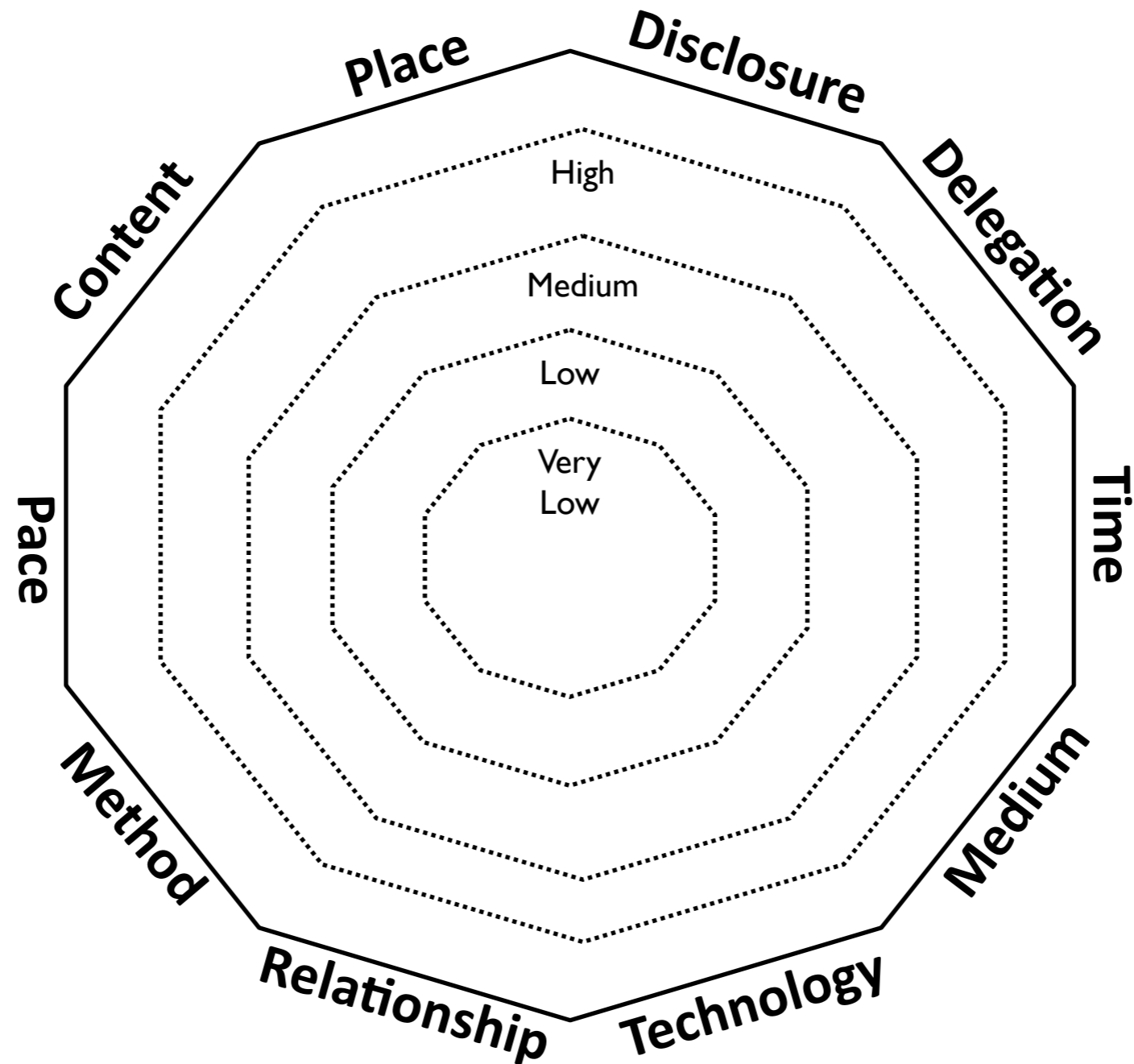
locks  
and  
clocks



What happens when you take away the power of the teacher (but keep the same pedagogies)?



# E-learning freedoms...

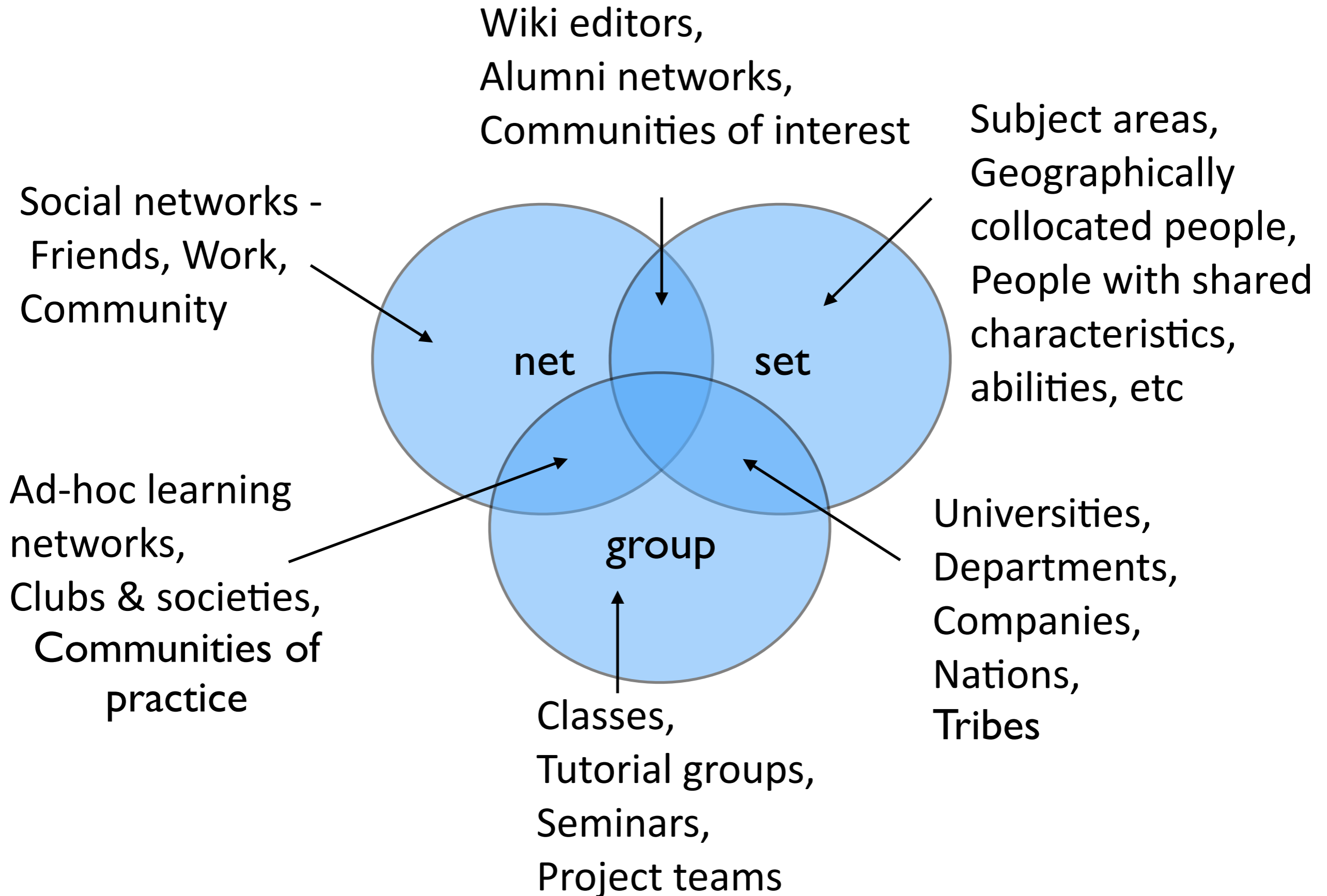


Beyond the classroom....



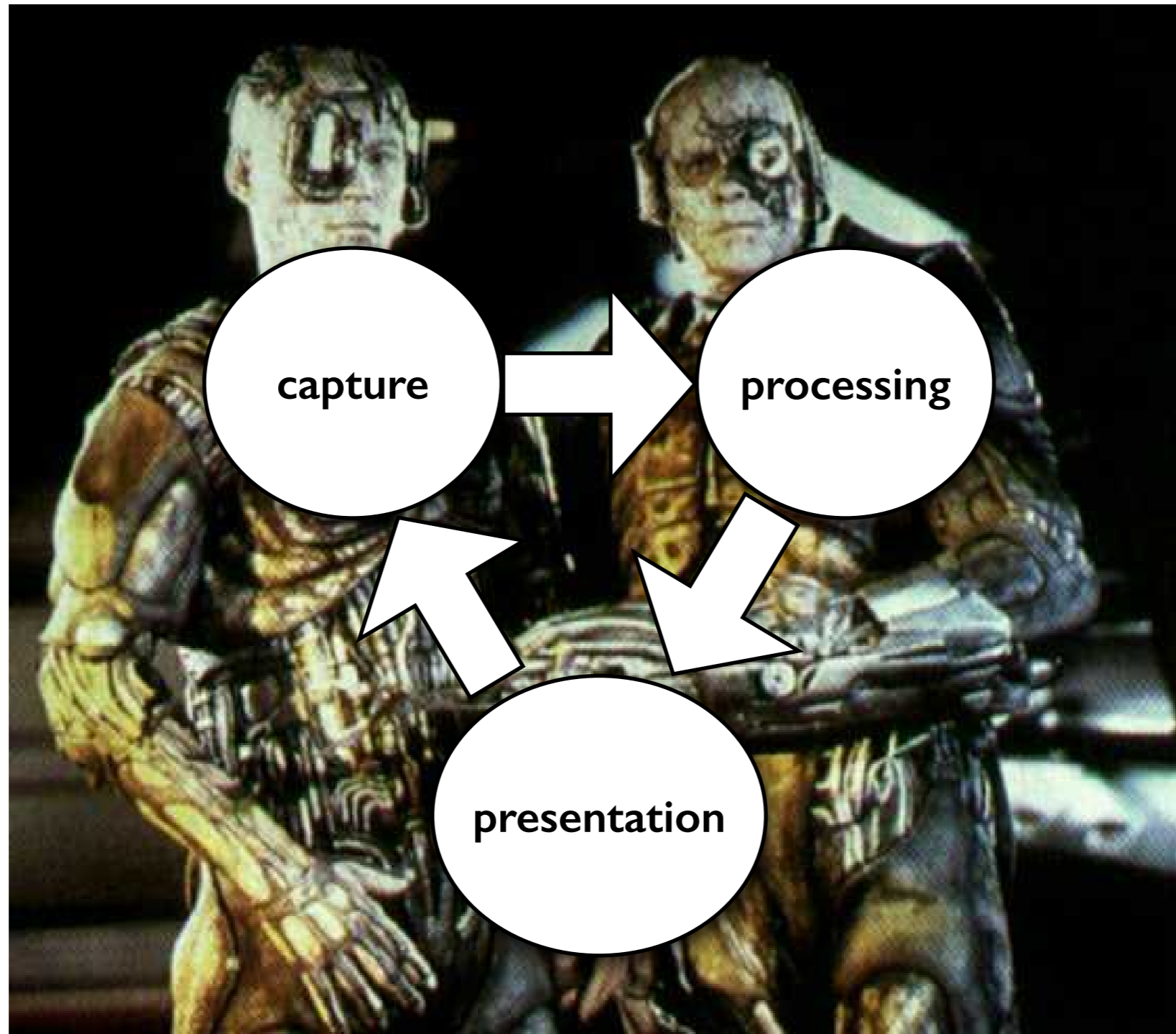


# Social forms for online learning





# The collective



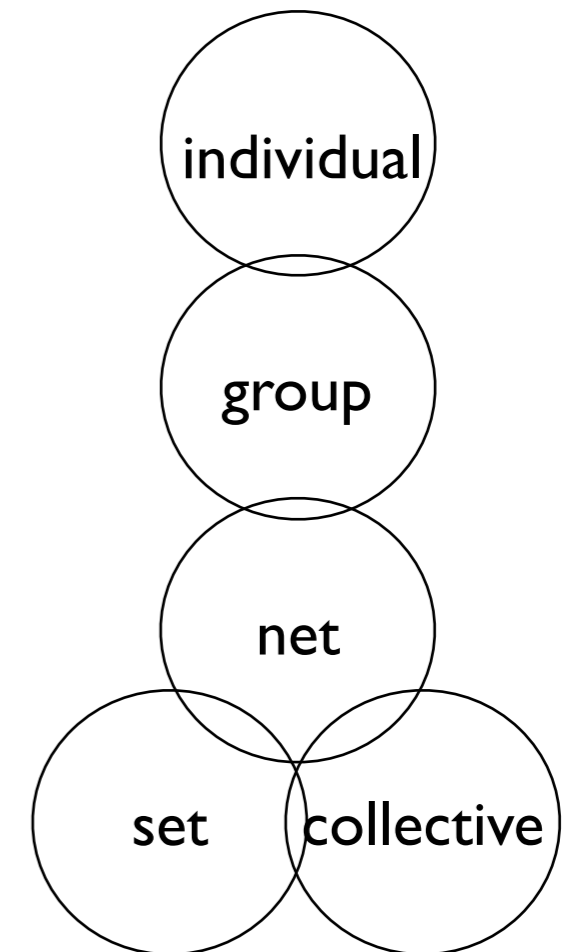
# Generations of distance learning pedagogies

**1. Behaviourist/Cognitive**

**2. Social constructivist**

**3. Connectivist**

**4. Holist (?)**





# Traditional teaching is all about groups



power relationships

sequence

leaders

exclusion

membership

duration

rules

norms

hierarchies

pace

rituals

collaboration or contest

structure

names

rites of joining and leaving

pre-planned learning

collaborating on tasks

support

process management

## **The wise group**

efficient use of experts

trust

reducing loneliness

caring

social capital

developing networks







limits on learner control

exclusionary      uniform pace

scalability      groupthink

## **The stupid group**

inefficiency      limited viewpoints

out of context      admin overheads

institutional/teacher control

**extrinsic motivation**

# other social forms



# networks

people you know



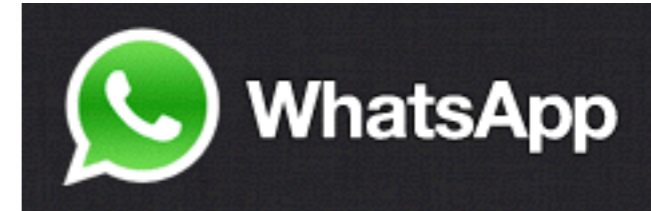
I store my knowledge in my friends (Karen Stephenson)



Google  
scholar

elgg®

friendfeed

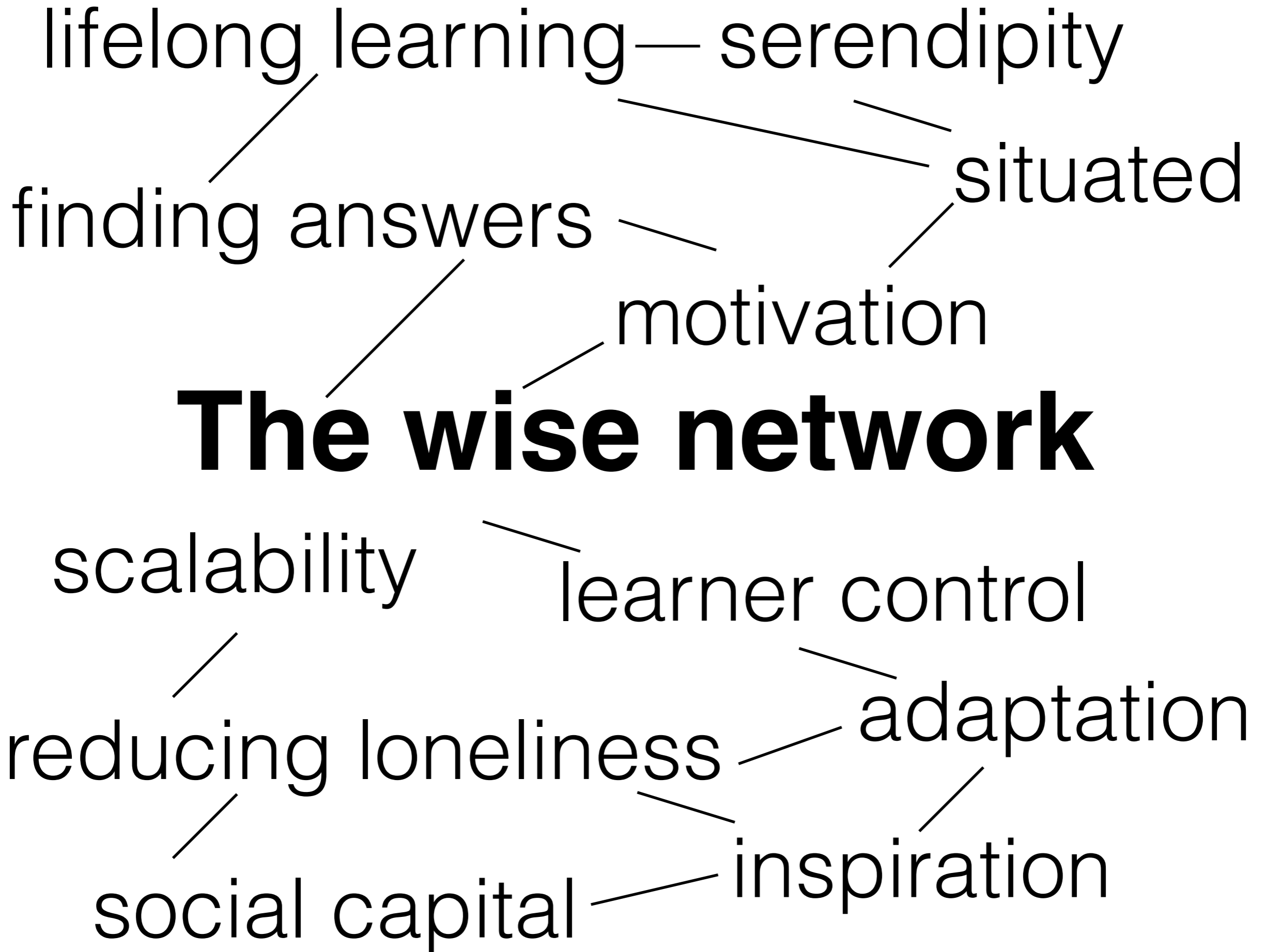


facebook

tumblr.

Google+





lack of process      inefficient paths

lack of direction      Matthew Effect

preferential attachment

# **The stupid network**

connection trumps wisdom

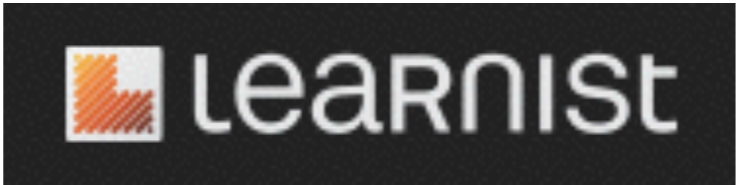
lack of structure      echo chambers

distraction      narcissism

# sets

people with shared attributes in a shared space







discovery

serendipity

finding answers

anonymity

exploring topics

finding people

## **The wise set**

learner control

reducing loneliness

scalability

diverse perspectives

starting groups and networks

bad people

trolls

stupid people

anonymity

lack of process

## **The stupid set**

reliability

lack of caring

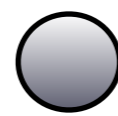
lack of structure

lack of trust

weak social ties

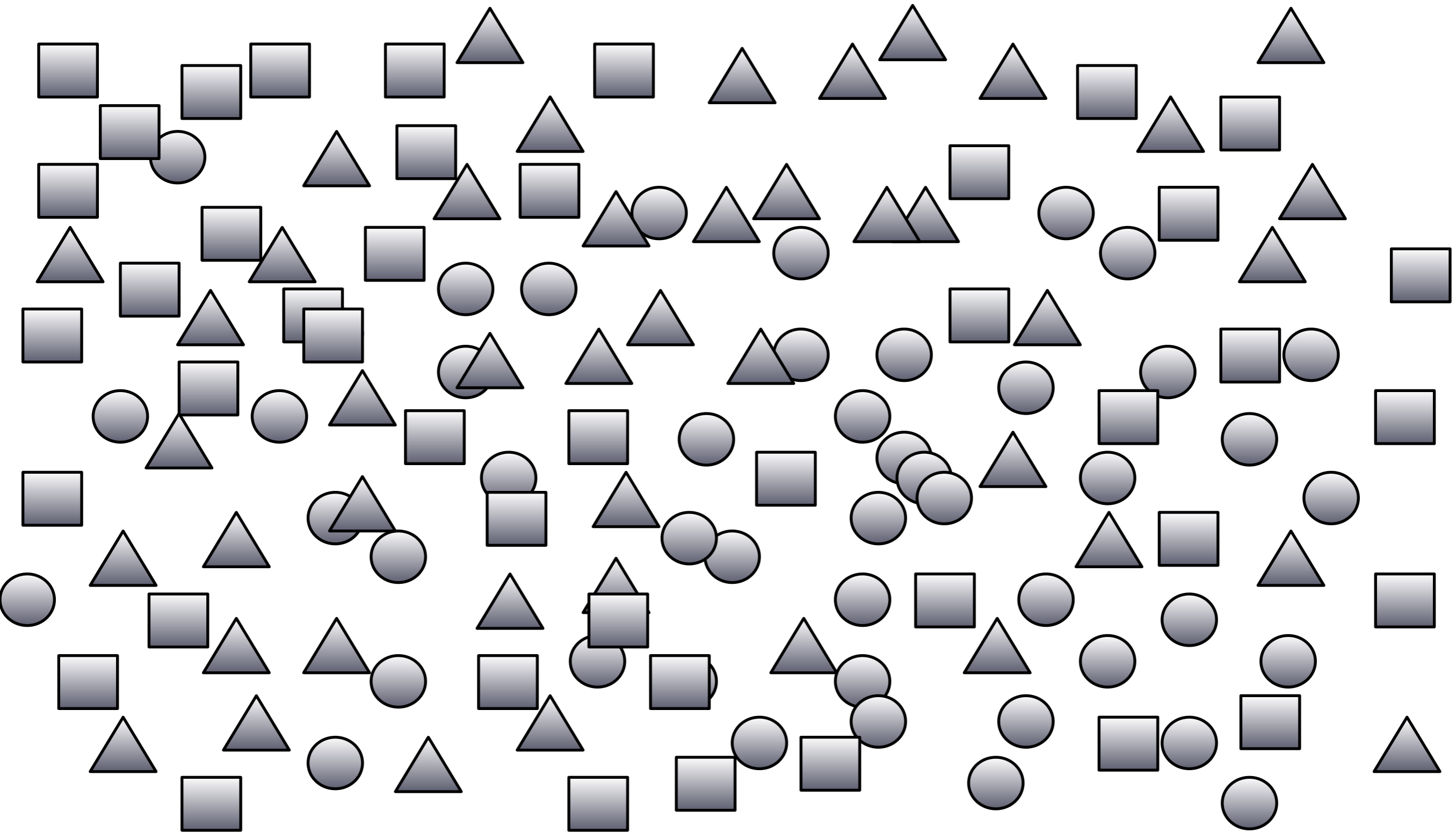


a small experiment...

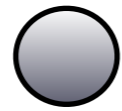




# How many circles?



# the answer



n=46



n=45



n=44

# The wise collective

**Hot tags**

**In the last 24 hours**  
 readingfestival2006, geotagging, leedsfestival, bankholiday, nottinghillcarnival2006, nottinghillcarnival, nottinghill, geotag, notting, tbg, slayer, readingfestival, monday, carling, ixus, cxflickr, hurricanekatrina, bluetagged, pax, ernesto

**Over the last week**  
 foocamp06, readingfestival, ultmarkt, exposure082506, barcampvancouver, brickfest copop, nottinghillcarnival, barcampearth, foocamp, minnesotastatefair, pax06, livestrong, gamesconvention, bokehsoniceaugust28, sunsetjunction, buskerfest, bankholiday, bershon, utatafun

Jump to:  **GO**

**All time most popular**

- 06 amsterdam anir
- beach berlin
- cameraphon
- christmas ch
- family festi
- garden geotag
- home honeymoon
- landscape light l
- museum music



special page

## Web 2.0

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
 (List of links)

< Web 2.0

The following pages link to this page:

View (previous 50) (next 50)

- The Cluetrain Manifesto
- Semantic Web
- World Wide Web
- Web
- Talk:Blog
- Sergey Brin
- Virtual community
- List of Internet topics

del.icio.us / tag /

your bookmarks | your network | subscriptions | links for you | post

Popular tags on del.icio.us

This is a tag cloud - a list of tags sorted alphabetically.

.net advertising ajax apple architecture art  
 development diy download downloads educat  
 game games google graphics gtd hardw  
 library life lifehacks linux mac maps m  
 photography photos photoshop php  
 resources reviews rss ruby rubyonrails school sc  
 travel tutorial tutorials tv twitter ubuntu

0 votes	2 answers	14 views	C+
0 votes	0 answers	15 views	ca
0 votes	0 answers	3 views	Sig
-1 votes	1 answer	246 views	C s
2 votes	1 answer	10 views	Th

Google

Web Images News Maps New! Products

Search: stigmergy

Search: the web pages from the UK



## Control and Constraint in E-learning: Choosing When to Choose

Hardcover – March 30, 2007

by Jon Dron (Author)

Be the first to review this item

ISBN-13: 978-1599043906 | ISBN-10: 1599043904 | Edition: 1<sup>st</sup>

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

method of indirect communication in a self-organizing environment where individuals communicate with one another by modifying ...

Stigmergy - 21k - Cached - Similar pages - Note this page

stigmergy

stigmergy, agent technology, complexity, evolution, emergence.

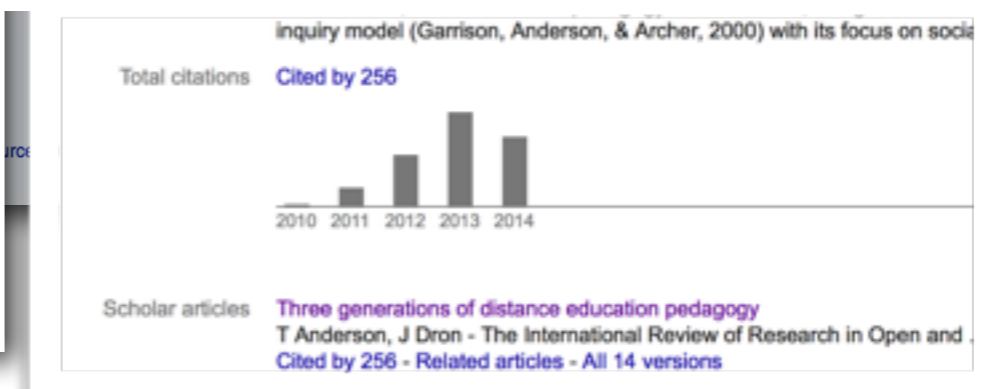
stems.com/stig\_v1/stigrefs/article1.html - 8k - Caches - Note this page

stigmergy?

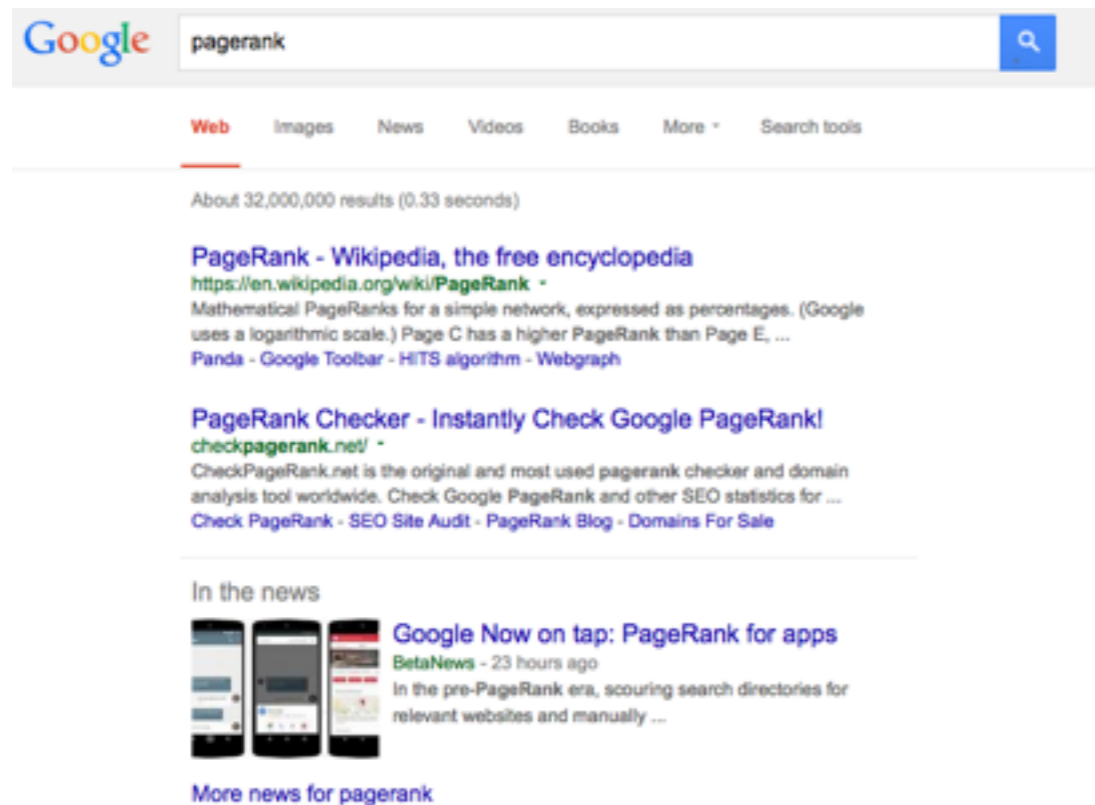
stigmergy, self-organizing, strategy, agents, evolutionary strategy, kempelen

**Popular**

Top Favored Blogs	Top Searches	Top Blogs
<p><b>Boing Boing: A Directory of Wonderful Things</b> 1,901 members have made this a Favorite</p> <p><b>Techcrunch</b> 1,393 members have made this a Favorite</p> <p><b>Make Money Online with ProBlogger</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ron paul</li> <li>youtube</li> <li>gtd</li> <li>galilea montijo</li> <li>railsconf</li> <li>popfly</li> <li>myspace</li> </ul>	<p><b>Engadget</b> Authority: 27,903</p> <p><b>Boing Boing: A Directory of Wonderful Things</b> Authority: 21,052</p> <p><b>Gizmodo, the Gadget Guide</b></p>



# e.g. Google Search



Google pagerank


Web Images News Videos Books More Search tools

About 32,000,000 results (0.33 seconds)

**PageRank - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PageRank> -  
Mathematical PageRanks for a simple network, expressed as percentages. (Google uses a logarithmic scale.) Page C has a higher PageRank than Page E, ...  
Panda - Google Toolbar - HITS algorithm - Webgraph

**PageRank Checker - Instantly Check Google PageRank!**  
[checkpagerank.net/](http://checkpagerank.net/) -  
CheckPageRank.net is the original and most used pagerank checker and domain analysis tool worldwide. Check Google PageRank and other SEO statistics for ...  
Check PageRank - SEO Site Audit - PageRank Blog - Domains For Sale

In the news

 **Google Now on tap: PageRank for apps**  
BetaNews - 23 hours ago  
In the pre-PageRank era, scouring search directories for relevant websites and manually ...

[More news for pagerank](#)

Any country - Any time - All results - Vancouver, BC -

$$PR(A) = (1-d) + d(PR(t1)/C(t1) + \dots + PR(tn)/C(tn))$$

**Google's Pagerank Explained - WebWorkshop.net**  
[www.webworkshop.net/pagerank.html](http://www.webworkshop.net/pagerank.html) -  
Pagerank explained, and what you can do with it. PageRank calculator.

**Google PageRank Checker - Check Google page rank ...**  
[www.prchecker.info/check\\_page\\_rank.php](http://www.prchecker.info/check_page_rank.php) -  
Page Rank Checker is a completely free service to check Google pagerank instantly using our online page rank check tool or a small pagerank button.  
[News & Updates](#) - [Check PageRank Button](#) - [Link to Us](#)





# e.g. StackOverflow

This site is all about **getting answers**. It's not a discussion forum. There's no chit-chat.

Just questions...

...and answers.

- ▲ Good answers are voted up and rise to the top.  
*The best answers show up first so that they are always easy to find.*
- ✓ The person who asked can mark one answer as "accepted".  
*Accepting doesn't mean it's the best answer, it just means that it worked for the person who asked.*

Do Swift-based appl

▲ Will Swift-based appli

14 For example, I have a application I write in S

★ ios osx swift

2 Answers

▲ Swift code can be de versions.

4

✓

▲ Apple has announcec Mavericks. The WWD

3

John Doe  
United States  
245 ● 3 ● 22 ● 74

+5 question voted up  
+10 answer voted up  
+15 answer is accepted  
+2 edit approved

Reputation	Privilege
15	Vote up
50	Leave comments
125	Vote down (costs 1 rep on answers)

2000	Edit other people's posts
3000	Vote to close, reopen, or migrate questions
10000	Access to moderation tools

[see all privileges](#)





# Athabasca Landing

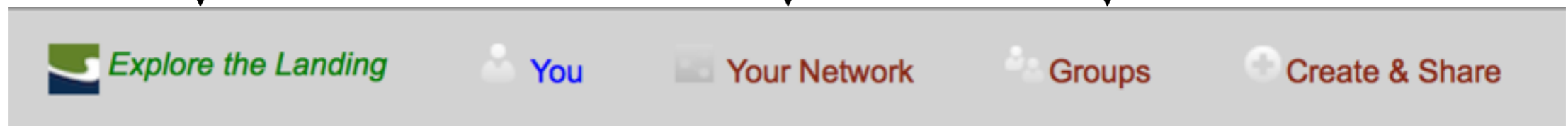
<https://landing.athabascau.ca/>

# deliberate support for

sets

nets

groups



# and collectives

research, e-learning, education, comp 650, comp 662, learning, e-portfolio, social computing, podcast, mdde605, sql, lms, ele social networking, help, oer, eportfolio, reflection, mdde663, blog, as portfolio, design, mooc, comp 266, COMP 361, learning journal, qu teaching, elgg, accessibility, blogging, law, ethics, social network, edde8 pedagogy, data modelling, intellectual property, data analysis, distance e ERD, learning diary, presentation, introduction, news, comp266, mo conference, tme5, database design, Virtual learning environments, tool,

### Related items

View all related items

<b>2013-2014 Graduate Student Research Fund (CSRF) Funding Opportunities</b> April 11, 2013 - 5:47pm Terry Anderson research, funding	<b>Funding Opportunities February 18, 2011 - 10:42pm</b> Kinshuk Funding, Research	<b>The Upcoming Bursting Of The (Bankruptcy Non-Dischargeable) College Debt Bubble</b> January 16, 2011 - 11:53am Mark A. McCutcheon debt, uss, education, colleg e, university, governance, tu ition, budget, student loans	<b>The Potential Competitive Advantage of Innovative For-Profit/Non-Profit Partnerships in Higher...</b> November 13, 2010 - 4:53am Inge de Waard (Ignatie) mdde605, option2, option #2, costs
--	--	---	---

### Recently recommended content

**Reusable Learning Object (RLO) Topics**  
Started by Richard Heintz on September 20, 2012 - 20 Replies (0)  
Last reply by Oliveri on September 23, 2012 - 9  
Replied to group: COMP 661 Fall 2012

Post your proposed RLO topics in the comment section.

**Important Information on Web Links**  
Last updated October 2, 2012 - 0 7:00pm by Mark Heintz in the group: COMP 661 Fall 2012 Com 661

Favorite group: COMP 661 Fall 2012

Web Links The internet provides a wealth of on-line resources which have been used to enrich the course material. However, one aspect of the internet is constant -- each step is the same. Pages disappear (and sometimes reappear) for a...

By Mark A. McCutcheon on September 20, 2012 - 2:24pm

1 recommendation

"Kids could be sent to jail for downloading" or "whole families could be kicked off the internet"

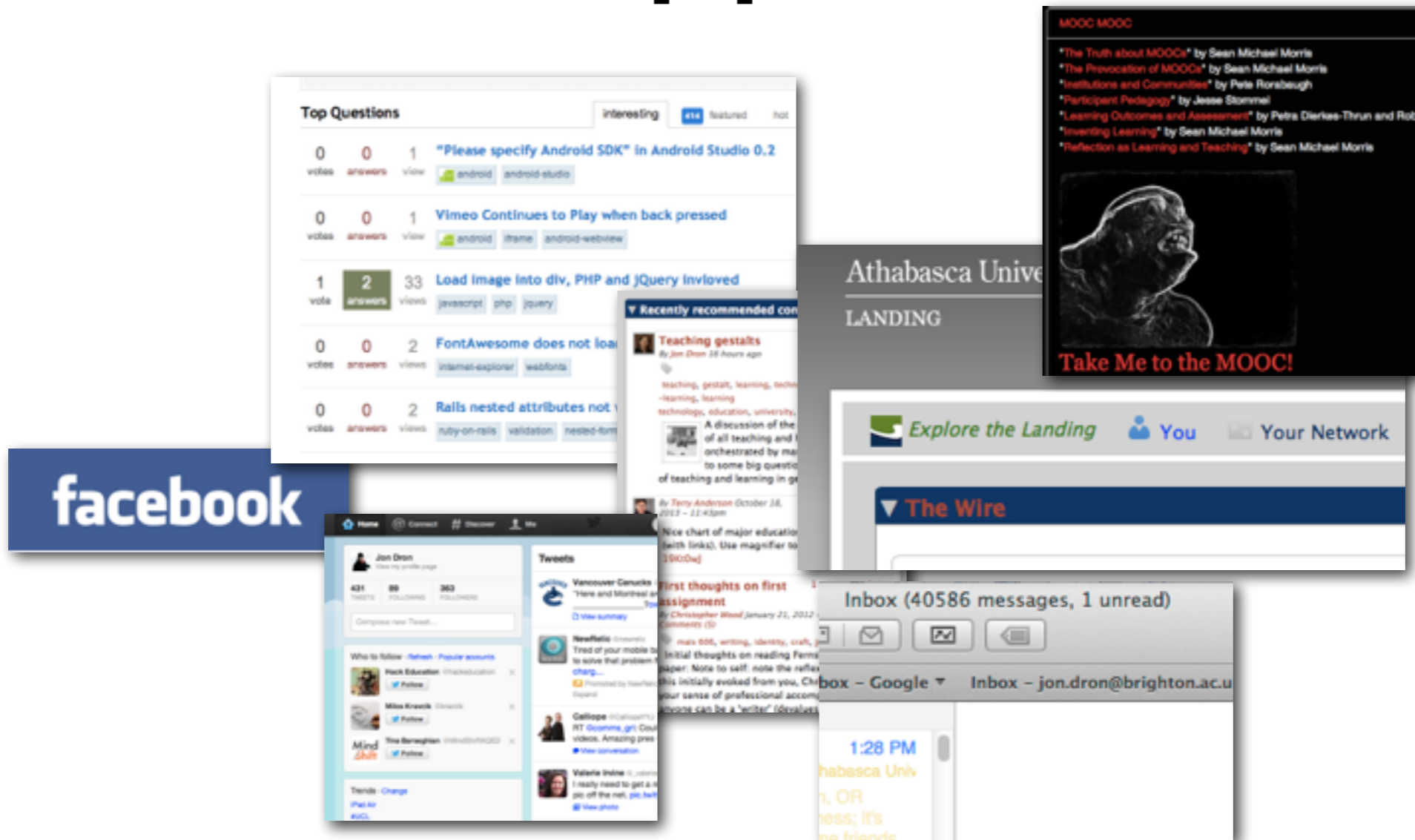
# Distributed content

The image is a collage of various digital content elements, illustrating distributed content. It includes:

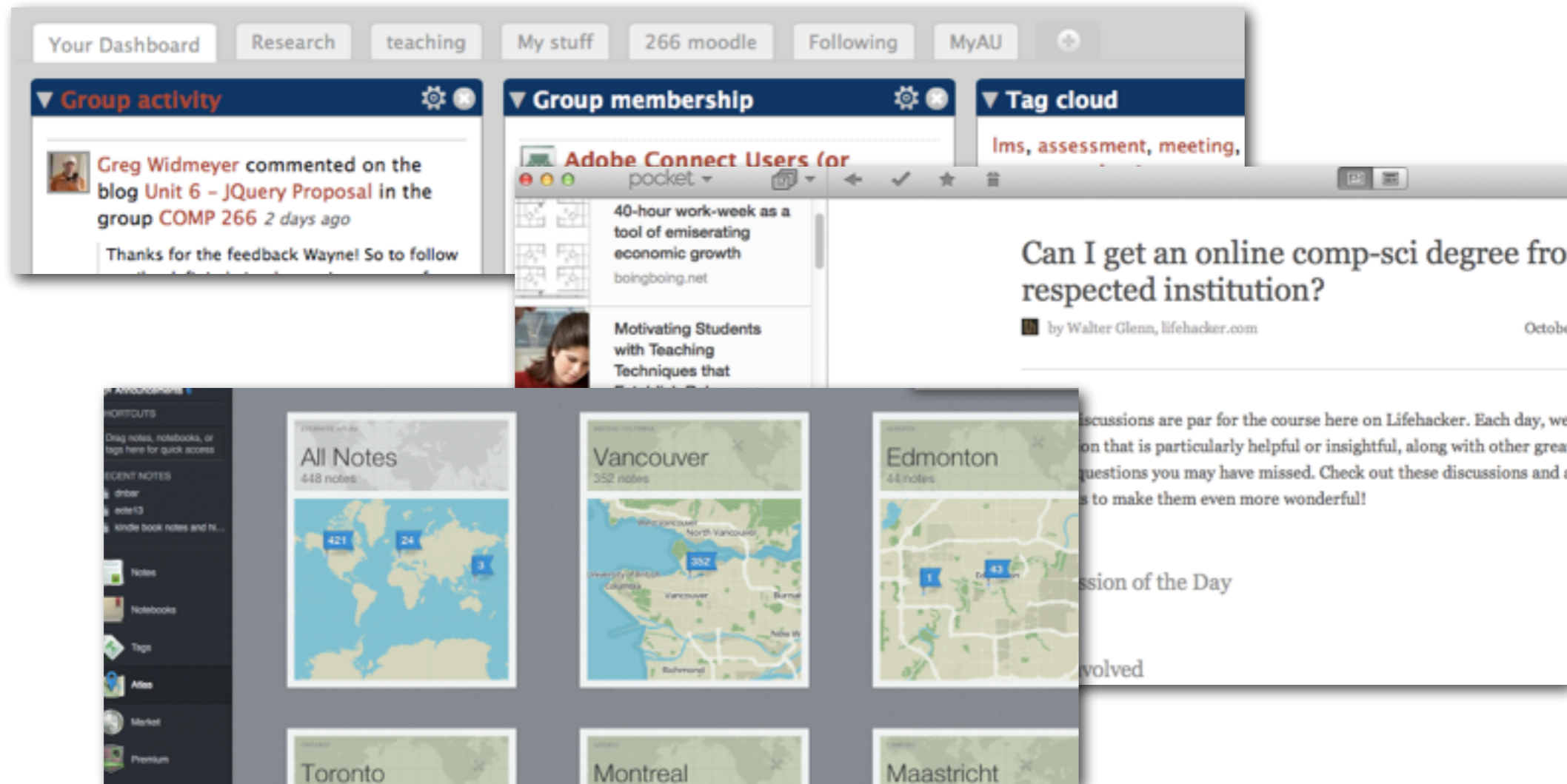
- Video thumbnails:** Four video thumbnails are visible on the left side, with titles such as "An Open Letter to Educators", "Athabasca Landing", "Videochat tool - Overview", and a thumbnail showing a person's face.
- Personal Website:** A central snippet of a personal website for "Jon Dron" from Athabasca University, showing contact information and a bio.
- Social Media Feed:** A snippet of a social media feed (likely Facebook) showing posts in categories like "Philosophy", "Lifestyle", and "Social Sciences".
- Wikipedia Article:** A snippet of a Wikipedia article titled "Stigmergy", including the title, a navigation bar (Article/Talk), and the beginning of the text: "Stigmergy is a mechanism...".
- Wikipedia Sidebar:** A sidebar for the Wikipedia article, featuring the Wikipedia logo and a list of navigation links: Main page, Contents, Featured content, Current events, Random article, Donate to Wikipedia, Wikimedia Shop, and Interaction.



# Distributed support



# Personal sense-making



# The final nail? Distributed accreditation



BADGES



OpenEd Researcher



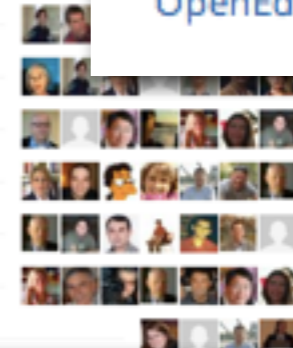
Student Submissions



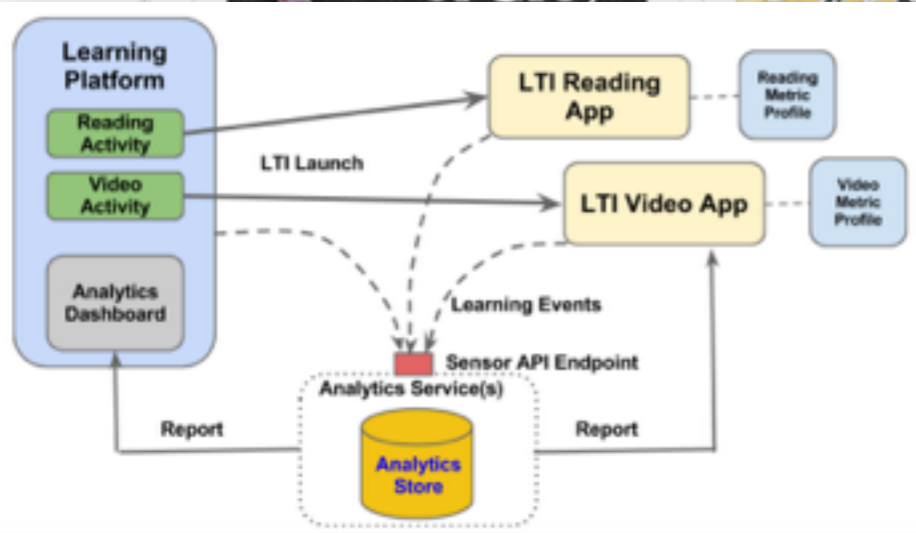
Skills & Expertise

Most endorsed for...

- 7 E-Learning
- 7 Distance Learning
- 9 Moodle
- 8 Educational Technology
- 5 Lecturing
- 13 University Teaching
- 9 Teaching
- 8 H



Athabasca University  
E-LAB PORTFOLIO



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

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# The end of the line?





This is not the problem...





# This is the problem....

## Program Regulations

### MSc IS January 2011 Regulations

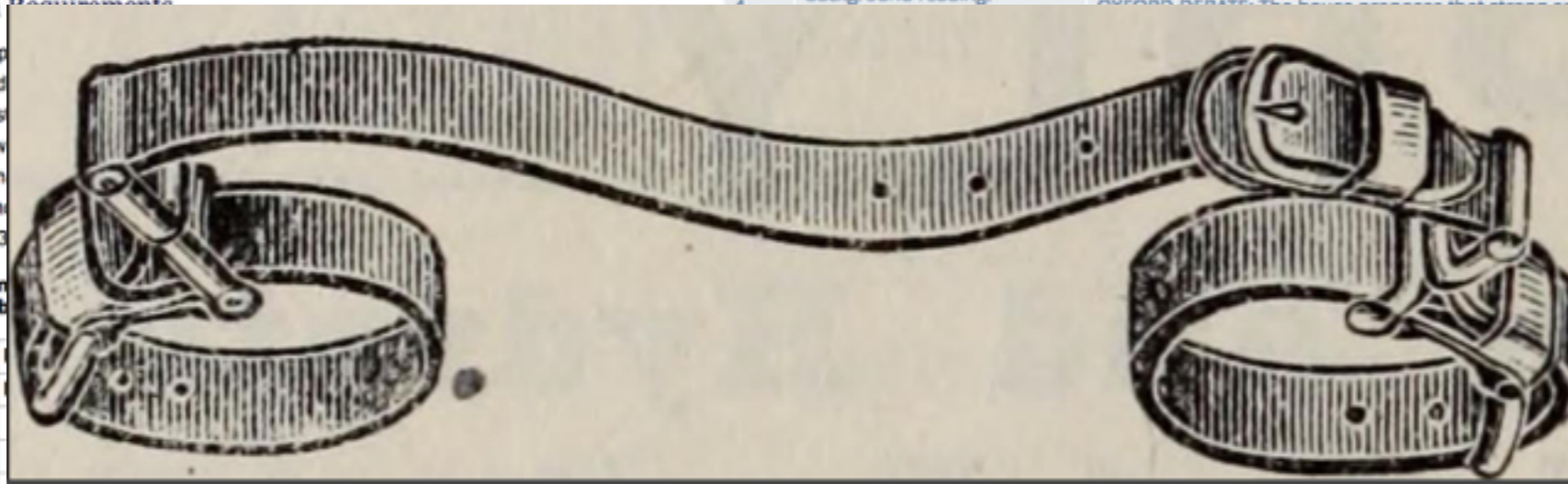
(Regulations for program students enrolled for January 1, 2011 and later)

### Completion Requirements

Program completion requires a minimum of 30 academic credit hours, including 12 Computer Systems and Information Systems professional work experience, minimum 30 academic credit hours, and minimum 30 academic credit hours and a maximum of 30 academic credit hours.

The minimum requirements are as follows:

Category	1	2	3
Foundations	3	3	3
Core	3	3	3
Electives	3	3	3
Integration	3	9	15



WEEK	PERSONAL ACTIVITY	PUBLIC ACTIVITY (MAY BE ADAPTED TO CATER FOR CURRENT NEWS EVENTS)
1	background reading: ethics	FORUM AND PROFILE: update profiles, introductions
2	background reading: privacy	OPEN FORUM: statement and discussion of personal interests and beliefs
3	background reading: privacy	TEAM DEBATE: privacy is dead and it's a good thing.
4	background reading:	GROUP DEBATE: The business process that stores encryption should be illegal
5		Should it be right to violate a
6		committed in other
7		computer crime, its
8		network sites to vet or
9		ethnic or national audiences
11	Personal research	SMALL GROUP DEBATE WITH PLENARY SUMMARIES: Is a person who has an 'affair' in Second Life being unfaithful to their partner?
12	Personal research	ACTION LEARNING: discussing personal research and process in small groups, seeking and offering advice
13	collation and commentary	PRESENTATIONS: research results and comments

## Evaluation

In order to receive credit for COMP 607, you must achieve a cumulative course grade of "B-" (70 percent) or better, and must achieve a grade of at least 60 percent on each course components. Your cumulative course grade will be based on the following assessment.

50%: Collated portfolio of reflections and contributions, with associated mindmap/concept map, presented as headings of objectives and links to/pasted supporting evidence. 50%: Research essay: 2000 words and audio/video presentation.

## Course Materials

- [COMP505](#): Operation Management (new for January 2011).
- [COMP506](#): Organizational Behavior (new for May 2011).





# technology

“the orchestration of phenomena for some use”

(W. Brian Arthur)

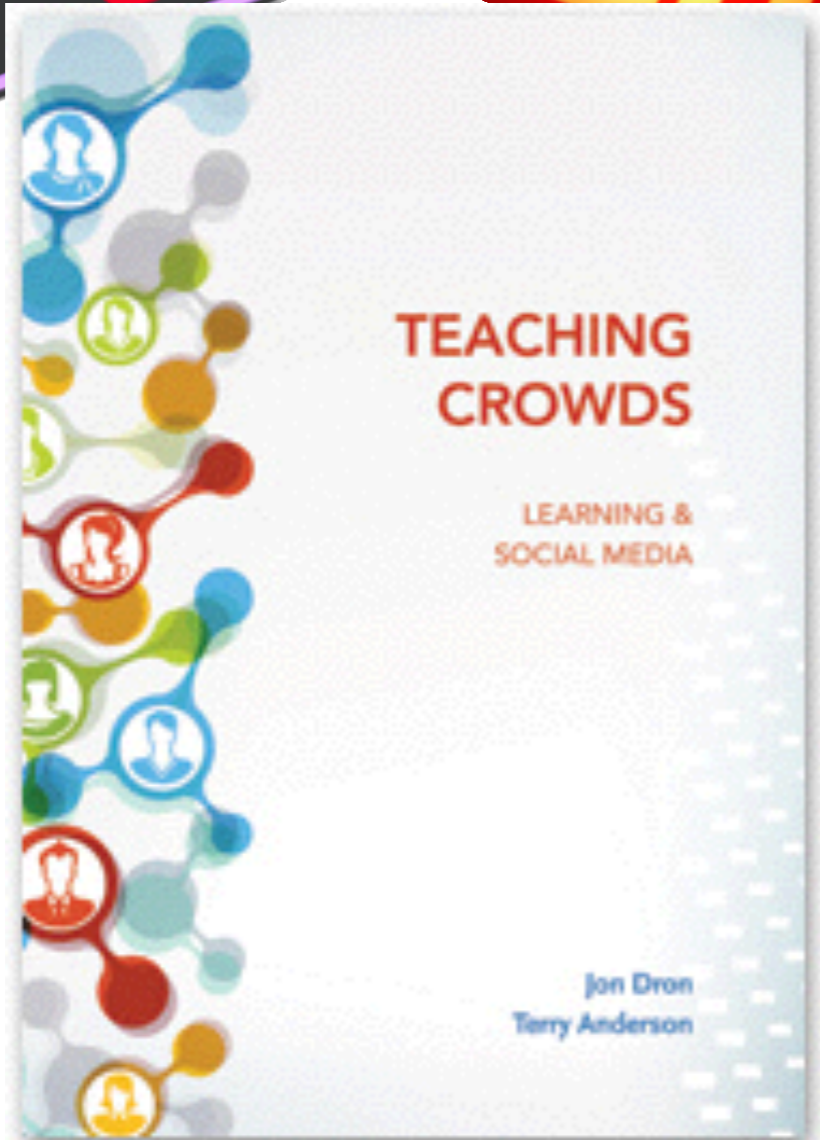


# learning technologies



where pedagogy is  
part of the  
orchestrated  
assembly





# Merci bien!



[jond@athabascau.ca](mailto:jond@athabascau.ca)



[@jondron](https://twitter.com/jondron)



[jondron@gmail.com](mailto:jondron@gmail.com)



<http://jondron.ca>

<http://teachingcrowds.ca>