

# The Teaching Crowd vs The Teaching Mob

ICRPE 2017



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[@jondron](#)

Technology Enhanced  
Knowledge Research  
Institute (TEKRI)



**Athabasca University**

FACULTY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
School of Computing & Information Systems

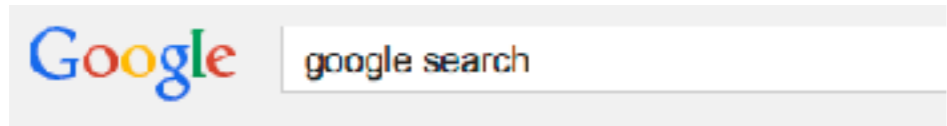
"The next big killer application for the Internet is going to be education. **Education over the Internet is going to be so big it is going to make e-mail usage look like a rounding error** in terms of the Internet capacity it will consume."

John Chambers, COMDEX '99 conference



You want to learn  
something.

What do *you* do?



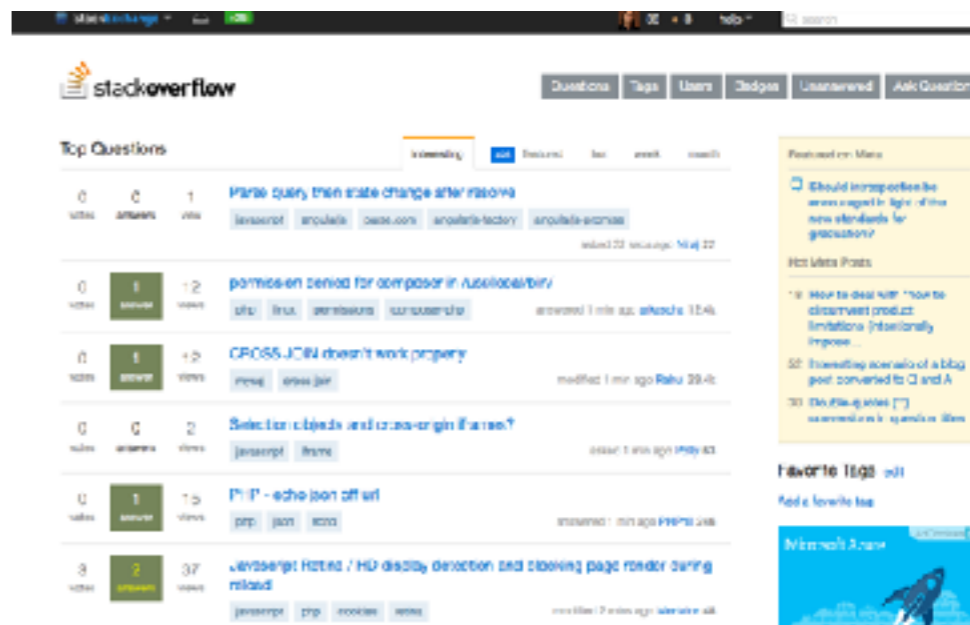
Web News Images Maps Video

About 101,000,000 results (0.44 seconds)

Google

<https://encrypted.google.com/>

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



WIKIPEDIA

The image shows the Wikipedia multilingual interface. In the center is a globe with the letters "WIKI" and various symbols. Surrounding the globe are language options with their respective article counts:

- English**: The Free Encyclopedia, 4,898,000+ articles
- Russкий**: Свободная энциклопедия, 1,156,000+ статей
- 日本語**: フリー百科事典, 930,000+ 記事
- Français**: L'encyclopédie libre, 1,555,000+ articles
- Italiano**: L'enciclopedia libera, 1,150,000+ voci
- Polski**: Wolna encyklopedia, 1,079,000+ hasel
- Português**: A enciclopédia livre, 810,000+ artigos
- Deutsch**: Die freie Enzyklopädie, 1,767,000+ Artikel
- Español**: La enciclopedia libre, 1,132,000+ artículos
- 中文**: 自由的百科全书, 791,000+ 条目

YouTube CA

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



SMS

Learning through teaching      Inspiring      Filtering

   Motivating

   Protecting

   Confirming

Challenging      Alternative perspectives      Sharing

Problem solving

   Critiquing      Affirming

Identity forming

   Giving permission      Supporting

Finding      Division of labour      Encouraging

   Caring      Validation

   Sharing

# So, why?



The complete list of all 80 false things Donald Trump has said in his first 4 weeks as president



shared a link.

### Fake-News



Francis Shoeks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement – WTOE 5 News

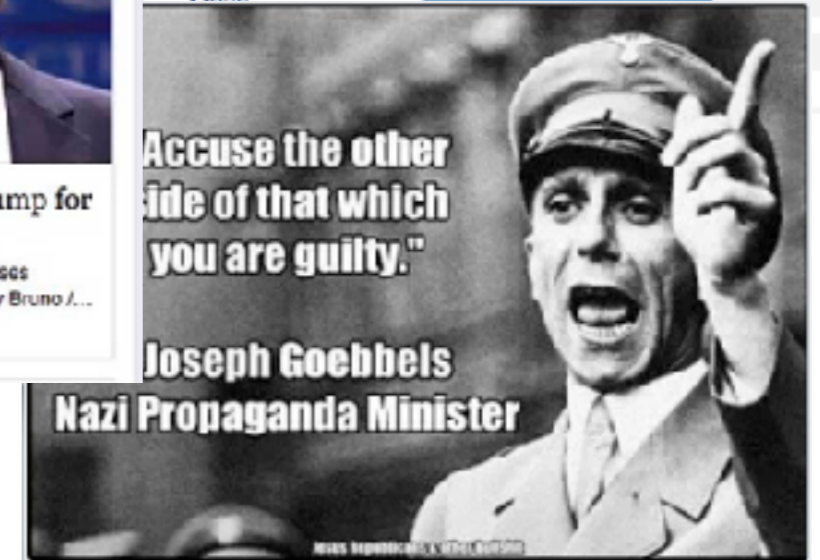
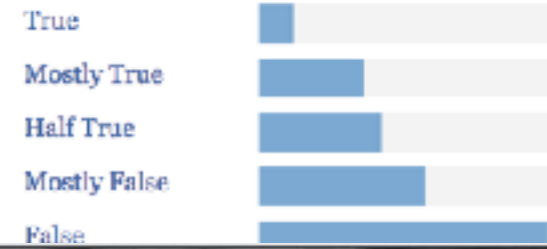
Francis Shoeks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement

TOPICS: Pope Francis endorses Donald Trump photo by Jeffrey Bruno /...

NEWS.COM

### Fake-News

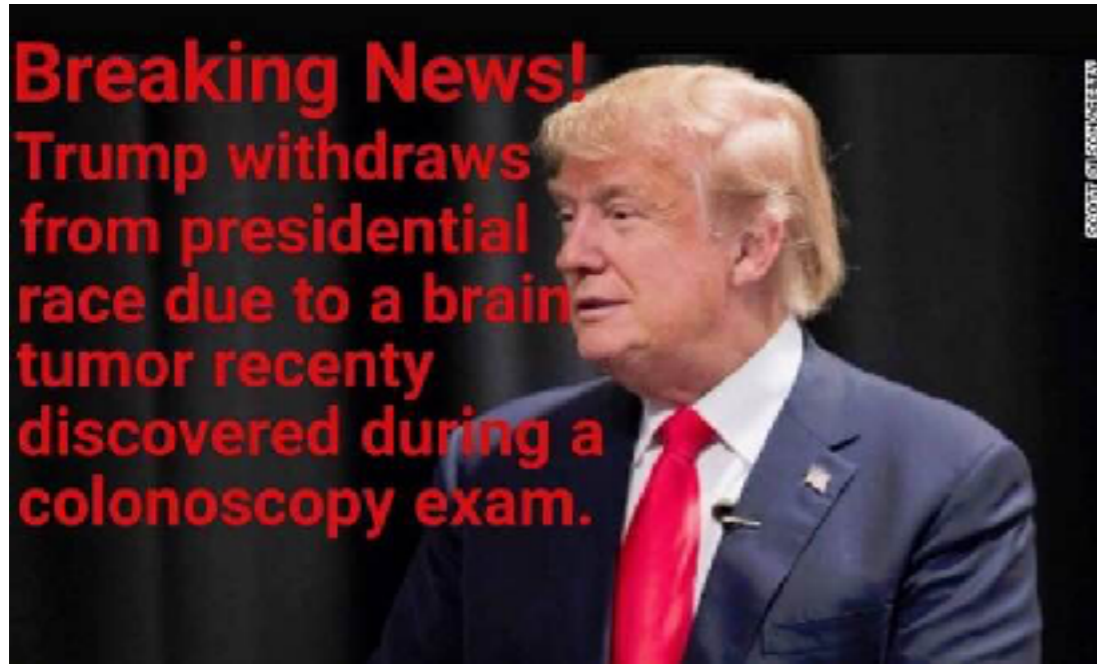
The PolitiFact scorecard



Wikipedia bans Daily Mail as 'unreliable' source

# Alternative facts

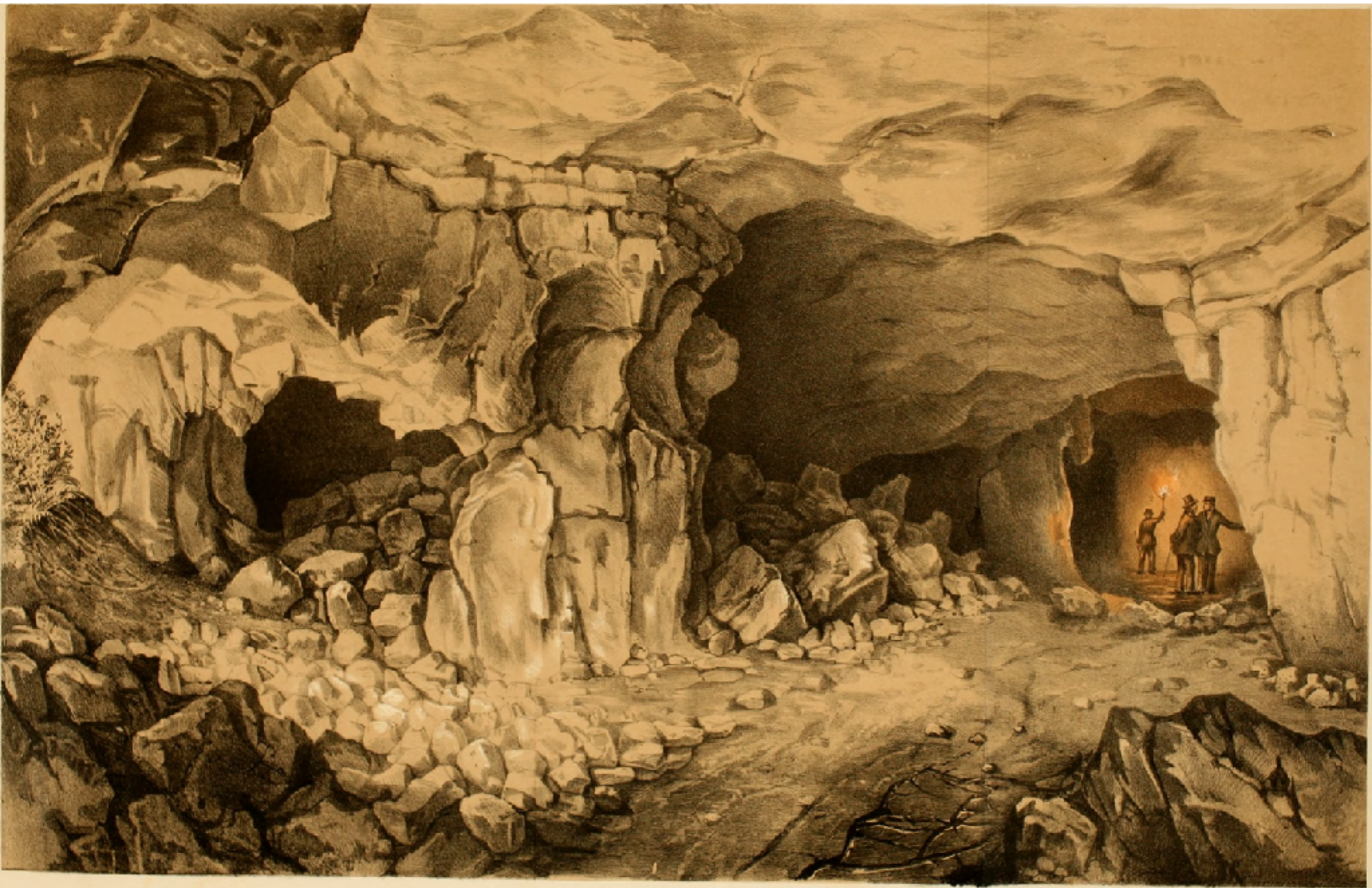
**Breaking News!**  
Trump withdraws from presidential race due to a brain tumor recently discovered during a colonoscopy exam.



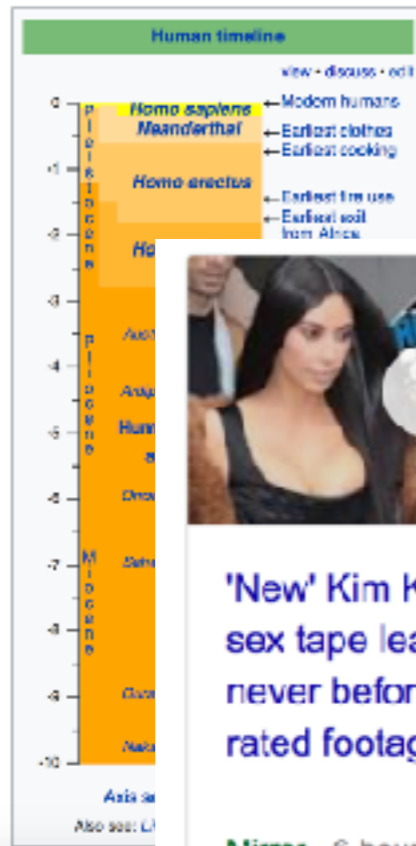
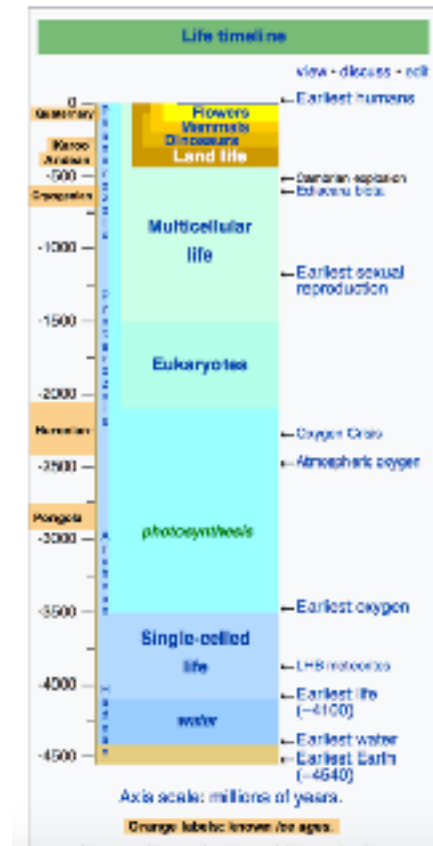
# Filter bubbles







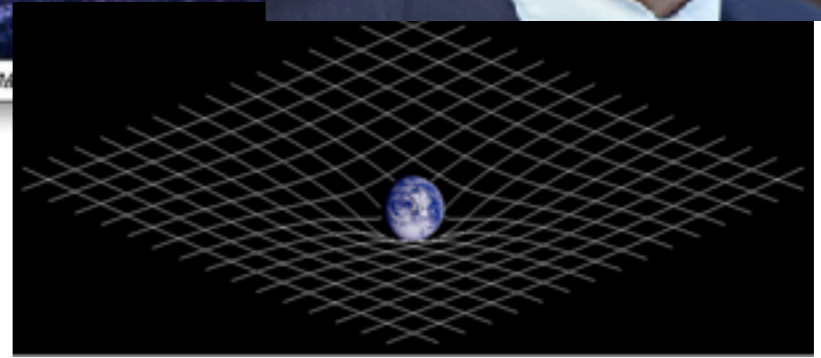
Echo chambers



evolution - The Greatest Deception in

'New' Kim Kardashian sex tape leaks showing never before seen X-rated footage of the...

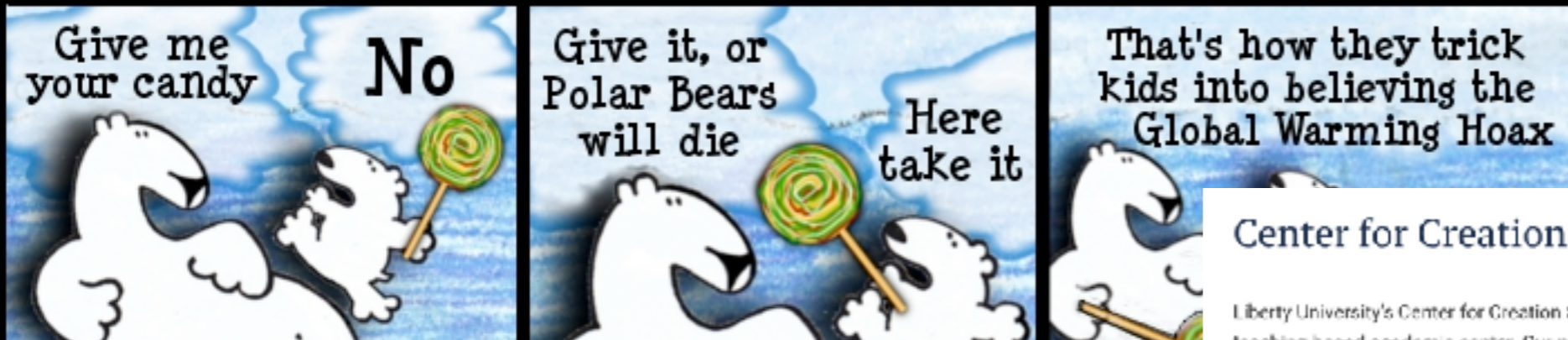
Mirror · 6 hours ago



# Homogenization



# Snowball & Blowhole -- Learn the truth about Global warming



# The TRUMP Entrepreneur Initiative

## Center for Creation Studies

Liberty University's Center for Creation Studies is a dynamic, teaching-based academic center. Our purpose is to research, promote, and communicate a robust young-Earth creationist view of Earth history. Beginning with sound Biblical interpretation, we seek to understand how science can inform us about God's magnificent creation.

The Center's activities are wide-ranging, both within and without the campus of Liberty University. In addition to our two courses (CRST 290 and CRST 390) which serve LU students, we regularly sponsor prominent speakers representing young-Earth creationism and Intelligent Design to the LU community, provide in-service lectures to LU faculty, and produce informative museum displays on young-earth creation. Our



# Unreliable teachers

daughter's duty end?  
BY CHRISTINA WALLACE

Comment Share

September 11: The footage that 'proves bombs were planted in Twin Towers'

ON the 15th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, experts are sensationally...

callstar.co.uk

See more posts about September 11th

TRENDING

- Deloitte: 22K people talking about this
- USB Kill 2.0: 1M people talking about this
- September 11th Anniversary: 360K people talking about this

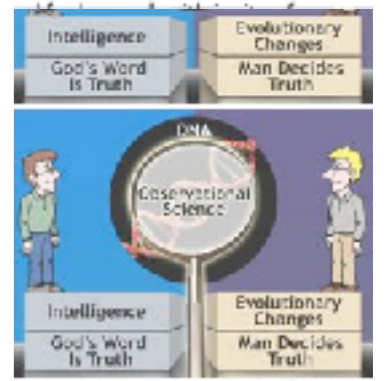
SPONSORED

See More

## Holocaust Against Jews is a Total Lie – Proof

Other Hoaxes Zionist Terror — 10 May 2016

Print Holocaust Against Jews is a Total Lie



N  
UNCI  
T



Fake College Diploma



Fake Canada High School



Fake High School



Fake Canada Diploma



Fake Canada College

what degree of exceeds all limits on, that is this edly occurred ifion but also

ARCHI



# Worth keeping?

Learning community

Webs of trust/authority

The big picture, the big plan

Concentration of gurus

A duty of care

Neutrality

Safety and support

Modelling ways of being

Credentialing

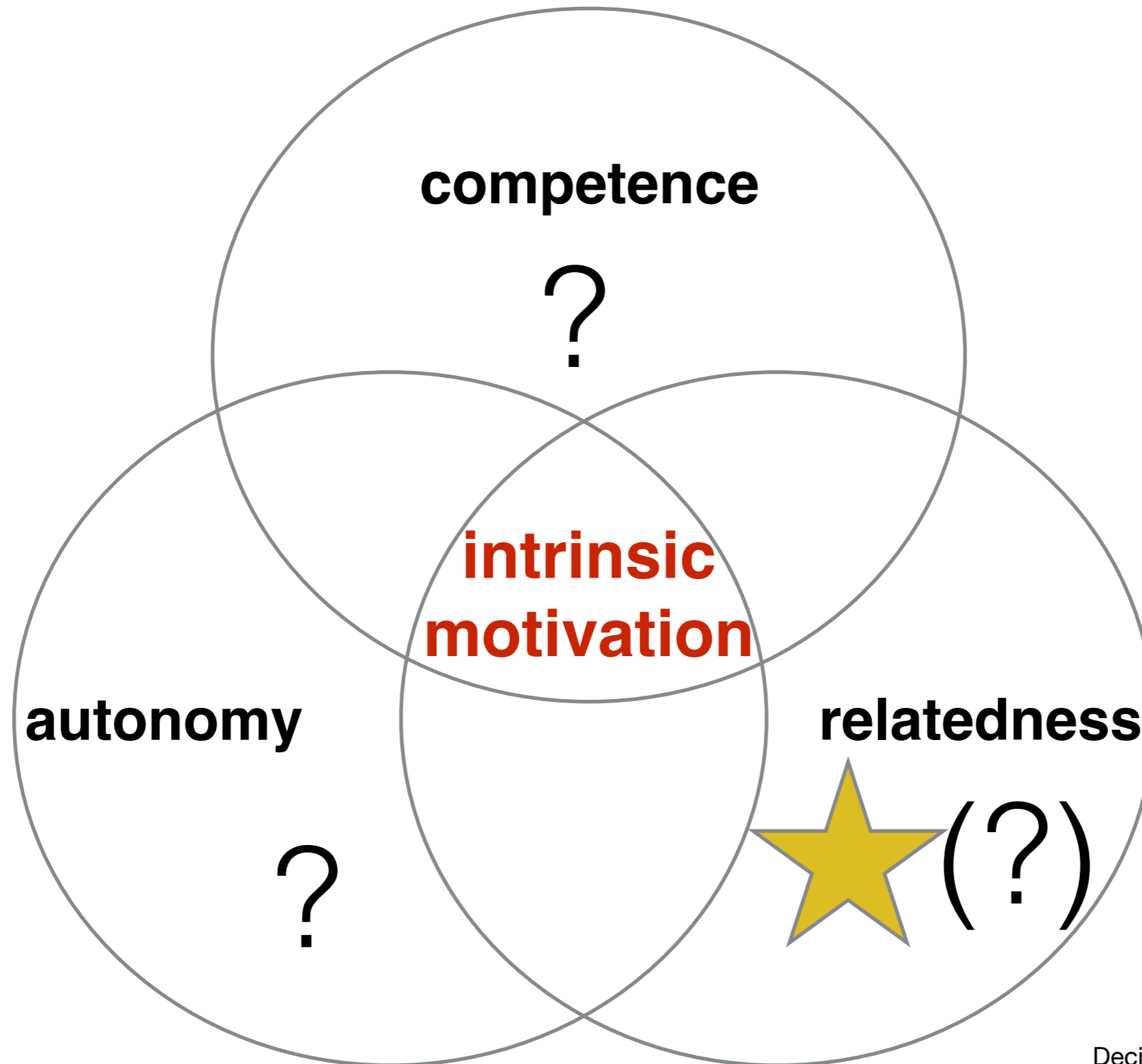
Social and cognitive scaffolding

Cultural continuity



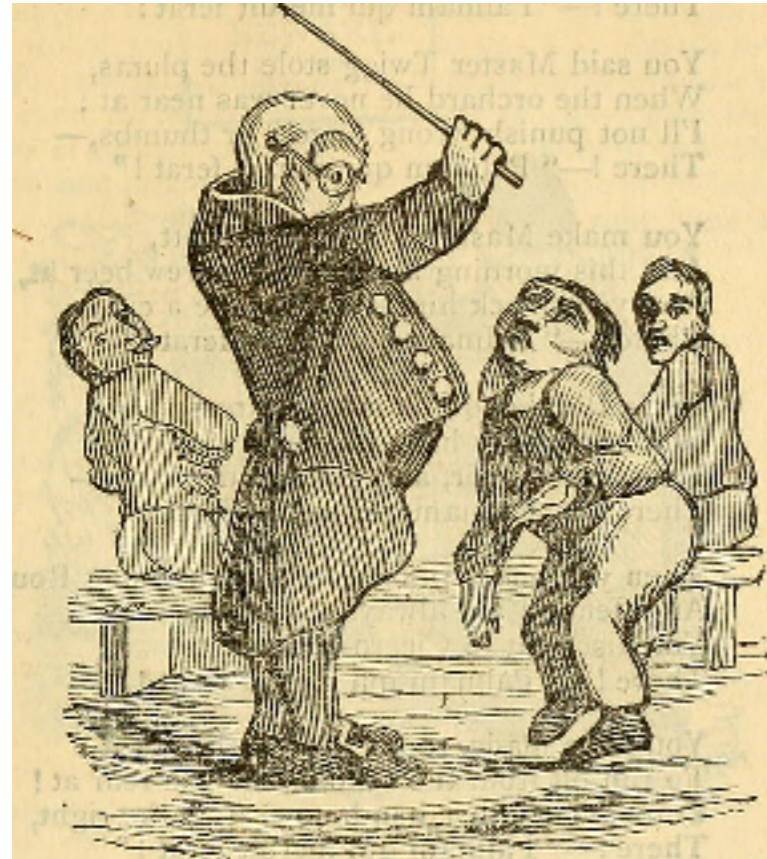
but...

# Classroom motivation



<http://selfdeterminationtheory.org>

Deci, E.L., & Ryan, R.M. (2000). The “What” and “Why” of goal pursuits: Human needs and the self-determination of behaviour. *Psychological Inquiry*, 11, 227-268



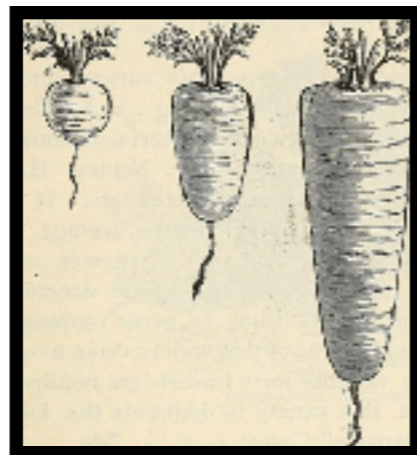
sticks  
and  
stars







Extrinsic motivation crowds out Intrinsic motivation



<http://selfdeterminationtheory.org/>

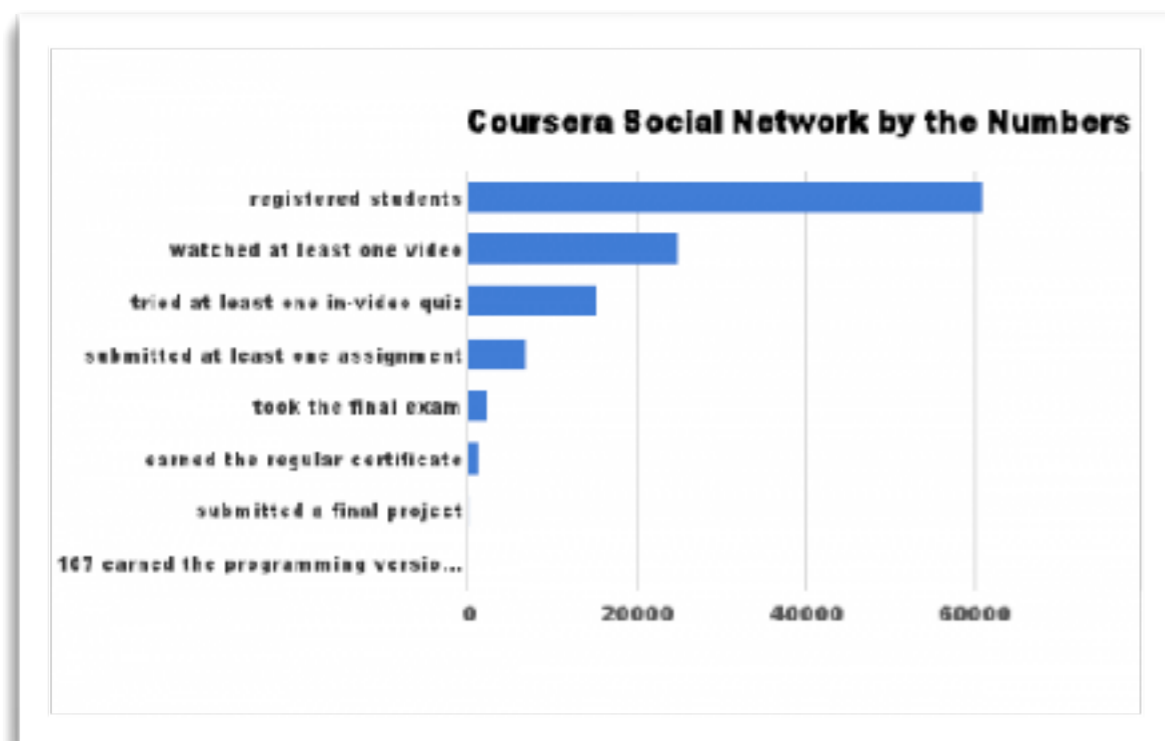
# Is this what we want our students to learn?

- that learning is dull and not worthwhile in itself
- that compliance with authority is a virtue
- that good-enough is good enough
- that teaching is telling
- that the point of education is to get credentials
- that education has a beginning and an end



institutional  
education systems  
are **systematically  
demotivating**  
because of inherited  
physical boundaries

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



<http://cogdogblog.com/2012/11/27/owning-massive/>

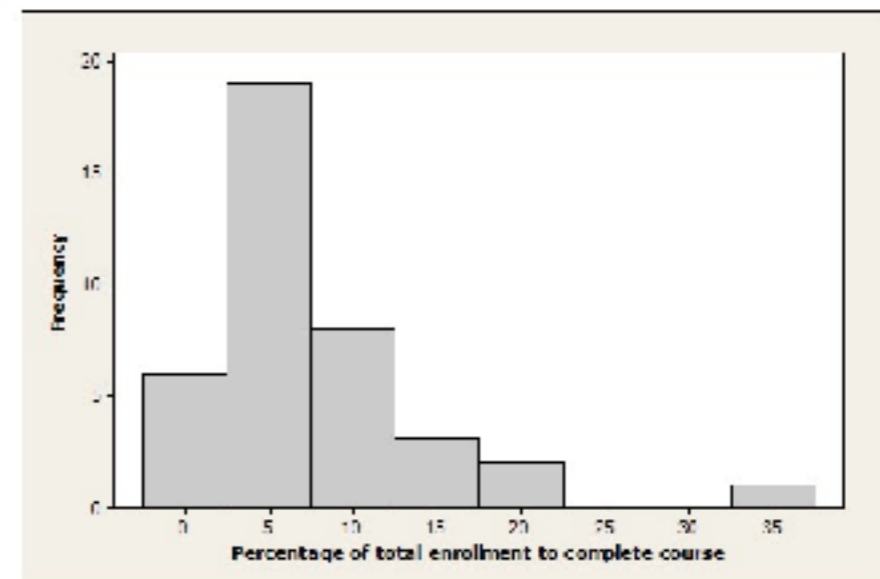
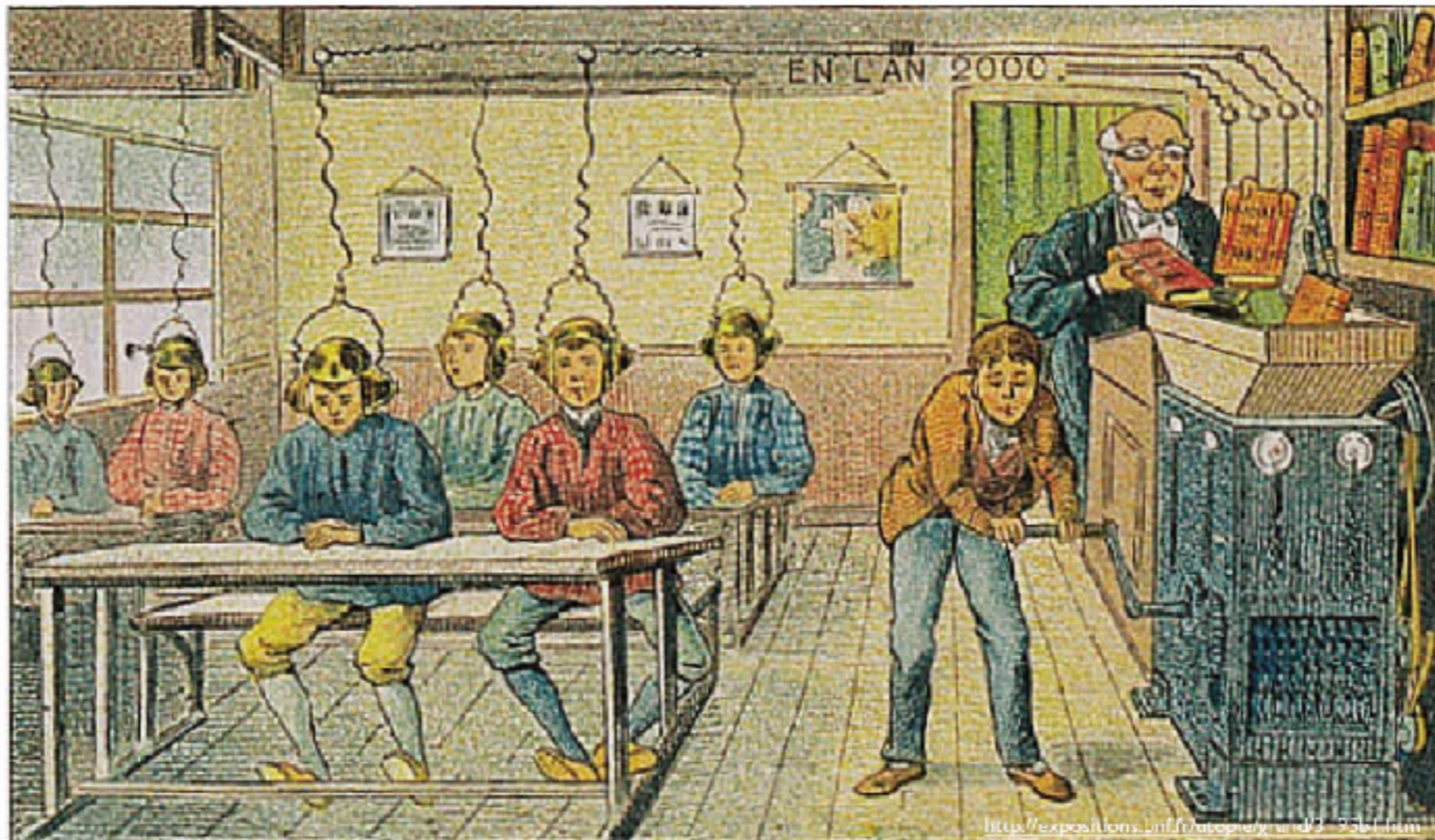


Figure 4. Histogram of completion rates for the sampled courses (n = 39).

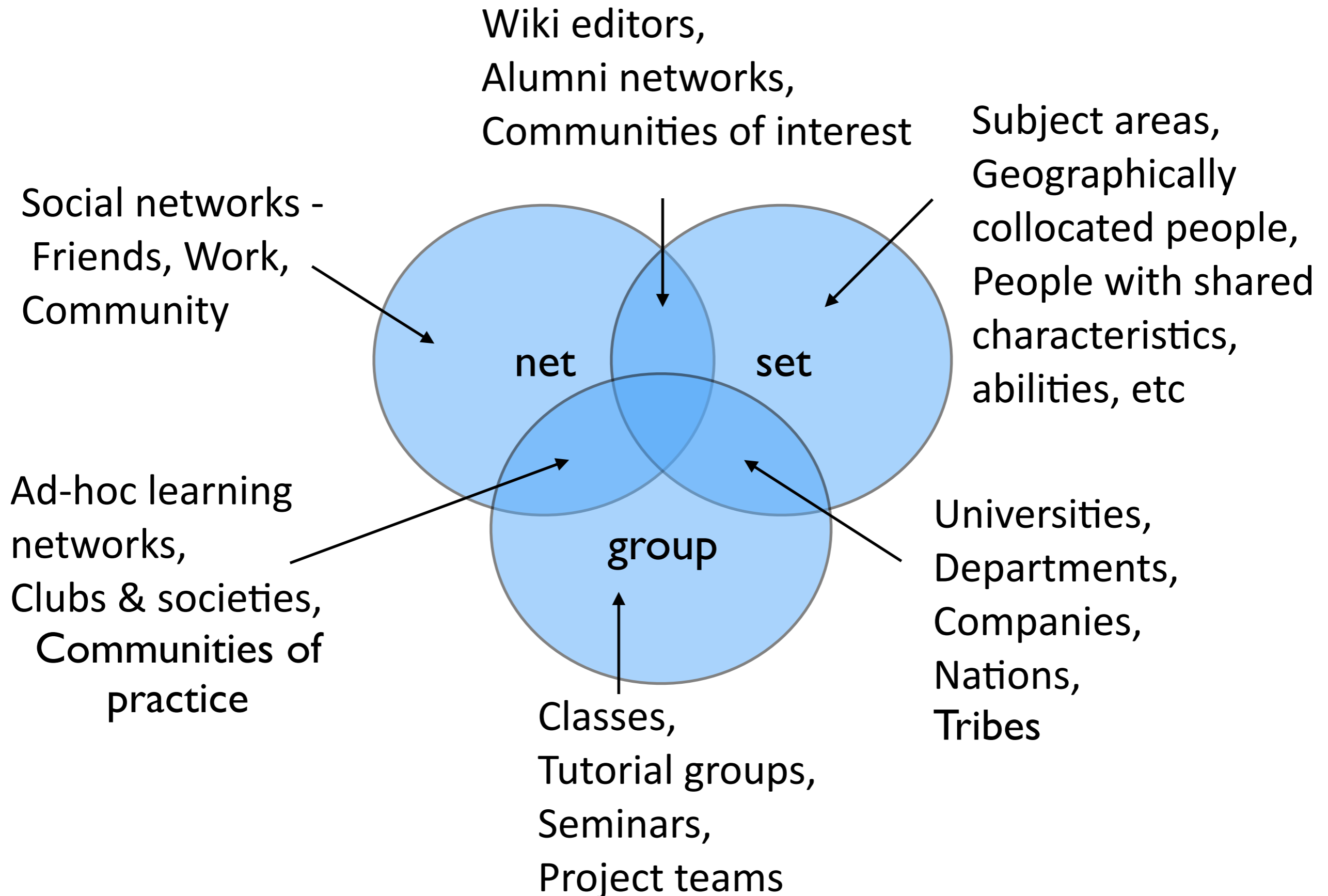
“Completion rates range from 0.9% to 36.1%, with a median value of 6.5%”

# The future?



Beyond the institution

# Social forms for online learning





**Traditional  
teaching is done  
in groups**





identity  
names  
rules  
leaders  
sequence  
processes  
exclusion  
membership  
norms  
duration  
**Groups**  
rituals  
hierarchies  
pace  
collaboration and contest  
structure  
power relationships  
joining and leaving  
***designed***

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

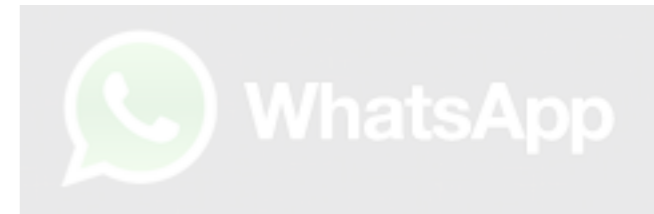
out of context      admin overheads

institutional/teacher control

extrinsic motivation

# Networks

people you know



I store my knowledge in my friends (Karen Stephenson)

knowledge spreading      serendipity

finding help      cooperation

visibility      intrinsic motivation

## **the wise network**

scalability      individual control

social connection      adaptation

inspiration

social capital

discovery

lack of process      inefficient paths

lack of direction/control

Matthew Effect

preferential attachment

# **the stupid network**

connection trumps wisdom

lack of structure      blurred contexts

distraction      echo chambers

owner-less      narcissism



# Sets



people with shared attributes in a shared space



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia



discovery

serendipity

finding answers

anonymity

exploring topics

finding people

## **The wise set**

cooperation

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

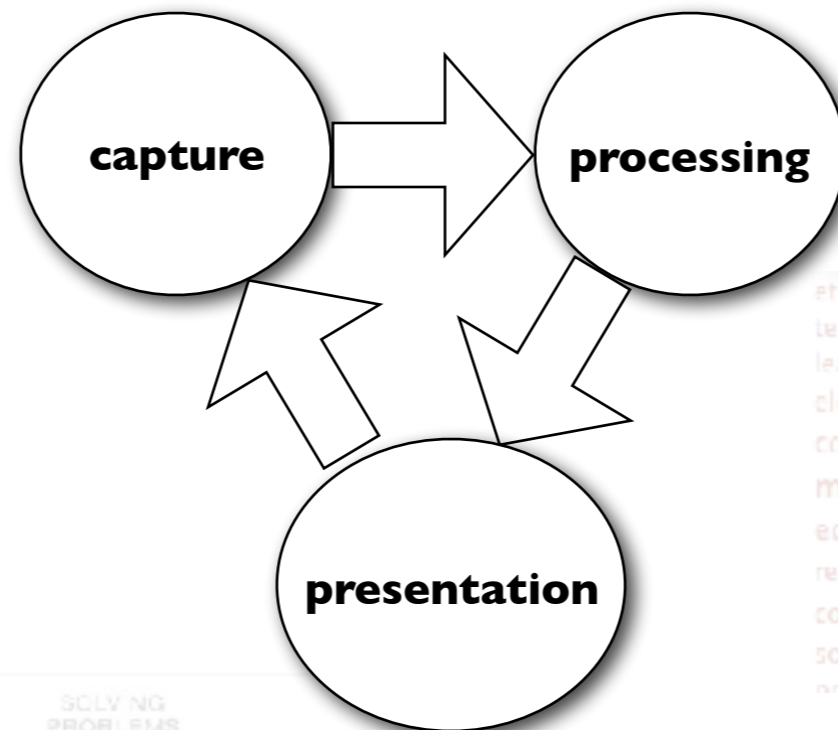
lack of trust

flame wars

weak social ties



# Collectives



Recommendations for You in Kindle Store

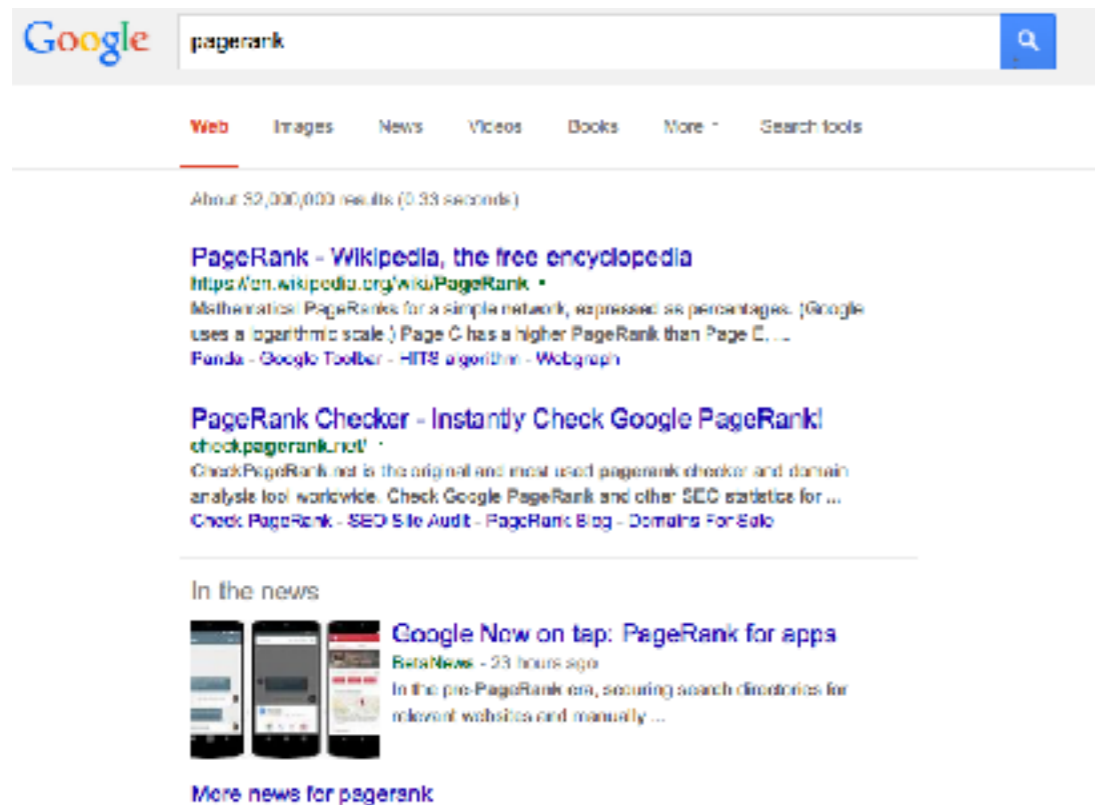


Forget a Mentor. Find a Sponsor: The...



# The structure and safety of groups, the flexibility of networks and sets

# e.g. Google Search



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.prochecker.info/check\\_page\\_rank.php](http://www.prochecker.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 in Us

# e.g. Wikipedia



The image shows a screenshot of a Wikipedia article page for "Wiki". A yellow overlay is positioned at the top of the article content, listing community guidelines:

- Be polite, and welcoming to new users
- Assume good faith
- Avoid personal attacks
- For disputes, seek dispute resolution

To the right of this overlay, under the heading "Article policies", the following guidelines are listed:

- No original research
- Neutral point of view
- Verifiability

The article content includes a section titled "Wiki" with a sub-heading "From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia". The main text of the article is partially obscured by the overlay. A table of contents is visible on the left side of the article, listing sections such as "1 Characteristics", "2 History", and "3 Implementations".

On the far left, the Wikipedia logo and navigation menu are visible, including links for "Main page", "Contents", "Featured content", "Current events", "Random article", "Donate to Wikipedia", and "Wikipedia store".

At the bottom of the page, a yellow banner contains the text: "This talk page is automatically archived by MiszaBot I. Any threads with no replies in 30 days may be automatically moved. S".

# 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.*

The screenshot shows a Stack Overflow question titled "Do Swift-based appli" with 14 votes and 2 answers. The top answer is marked as "accepted" with a green checkmark. Annotations include arrows pointing from the text on the left to the question and answer sections, and a box on the right showing a user profile for "John Doe" with reputation and privilege levels.

**Do Swift-based appli**

▲ 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 announced Mavericks. The WWDC  
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](#)

refining

filtering

discovering

sorting

connecting

creating

# The wise collective

recommending

confirming

trust-building

scalable

authority

filter bubbles

herd behaviours reinforcing bias

purpose may not be learning

## **The stupid collective**

lack of precision lack of caring

intentional abuse evil-doers

only as smart as the algorithms

A future

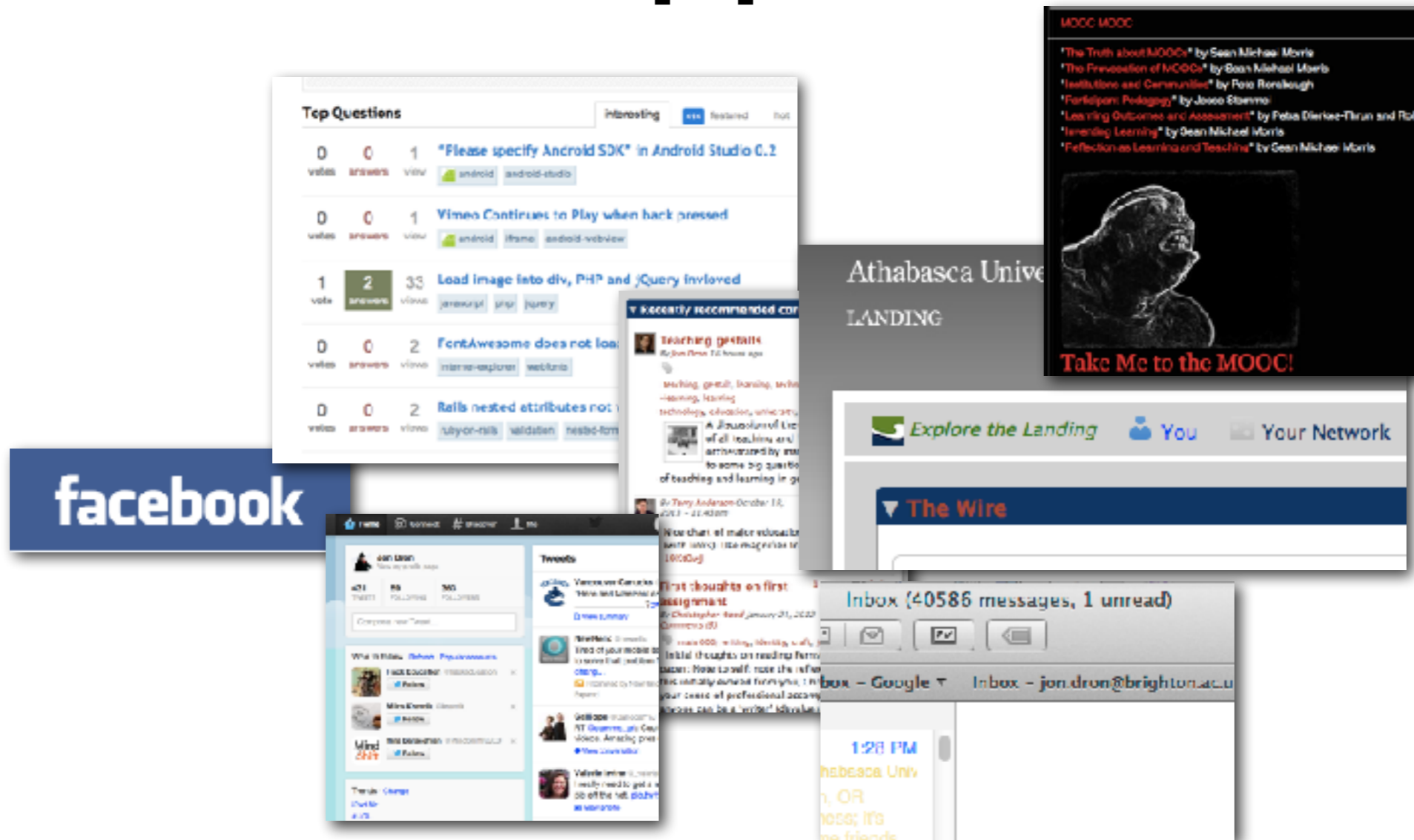


# Distributed content

The image displays a collage of digital content sources, illustrating distributed content. The elements include:

- Top Left:** A list of educational articles, such as "An Open Letter to Educators" by Dan Brown and "Athabasca Landing" by Moustafa El-Bishary.
- Top Center:** A university profile for "Jon Dron's home page" at Athabasca University, including contact information and a list of articles like "Dr. Jon Dron - Schultz' Computing and Information Literacy" and "Three generations of distance education pedagogy".
- Top Right:** A social media feed with posts from "Philosophy" and "L. Knight" featuring images and text.
- Middle Left:** A video chat interface titled "Videochat 101 - Overview" showing a woman speaking.
- Middle Right:** A social media feed with posts from "Book Reviews" and "Teaching Resources for Ancient Egypt".
- Bottom Left:** The Wikipedia logo and navigation menu, including links for "Main page", "Contents", "Featured content", "Current events", "Random article", "Donate to Wikipedia", and "Wikimedia Shop".
- Bottom Center:** A Wikipedia article titled "Stigmergy" with a table of contents showing sections for "1 History", "2 Stigmergic behavior in low", and "3 Stigmergic behavior in soc".

# Distributed support



# Distributed accreditation



BADGES



OpenEd Researcher

Skills & Expertise

Most endorsed for...

57	E-Learning	
47	Distance Learning	
19	Moodle	
18	Educational Technology	
15	Lecturing	
13	University Teaching	
9	Teaching	
8	Higher Education	

## Student Submissions



### Fifty Suits of Grey

Liam Higgins Saunders. I work as a cartoonist and illustrator, producing strips, features and news cartoons for many publications...

[More submissions like this at Book Cover for Your Autobiography »](#)



### One Slow Walk - On the (com)plaints of an African Queue

I queued. Voluntarily. At The Department of Manpower! The dreaded DOM queue held me for just a while. Queues get a...

[More submissions like this at Observation Lab »](#)

Athabasca University  
**E-LAB PORTFOLIO**



**WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**

ONLINE. ACCELERATED. AFFORDABLE. ACCREDITED.

# Personal and collective sense-making

The image is a collage of several digital interfaces:

- Top Center:** A browser window titled "pocket" showing a saved article titled "40-hour work-week as a tool of emiserating economic growth" from beingbolng.net.
- Top Right:** A browser window showing an article titled "Can I get an online comp-sci degree from respected institution?" by Walter Gherr, Lifshacker.com, dated October. The article text includes: "Great discussions are par for the course here on Lifshacker. Each day, we discussion that is particularly helpful or insightful, along with other great reader questions you may have missed. Check out these discussions and thoughts to make them even more wonderful!" and sections for "Discussion of the Day" and "Get Involved".
- Left Side:** A vertical sidebar menu with icons for "Home", "Pondbooks", "Tags", "Atlas", "Market", and "Premium".
- Center:** A dashboard with six map tiles: "All Notes" (with a world map and numbers 421, 24, 3), "Vancouver" (with a map of Vancouver), "Edmonton" (with a map of Edmonton), "Toronto", "Montreal", and "Vaastricht".
- Bottom:** A dashboard with navigation tabs: "Your Dashboard", "Research", "teaching", "My stuff", "266 moodle", "Following", "MyAU". Below these are three panels:
  - Group activity:** A comment from Greg Widmeyer on the blog "Unit 6 - JQuery Proposal" in the group "COMP 266" 2 days ago. The comment says: "Thanks for the Fredback Wayne! So to follow".
  - Group membership:** Lists "Adobe Connect Users (or complainers) Group" (Adobe Connect Support) and "AU Landing Vodcast Series, with".
  - Tag cloud:** Lists various tags including "lms, assessment, meeting, podcast, plugin, journal, Journals, hard technology, ethics, comp 650, comp 2, technology, comp602, J".

*But, in the meantime...*

**Web 1.5**



# Athabasca University

everywhere.



also in the middle of nowhere

(-40°F = -40°C)

Collectives

Groups

Sets

# Athabasca Landing

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



Networks



Following

Followers

Circles

Circles

Social Learning (12)

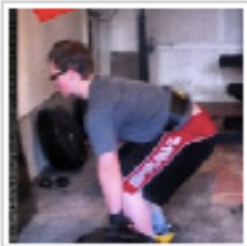
TerryAndGeorge (2)

special interest (13)

friends (17)

e-learning (21)

Athabasca Robotics Camp 2013



Adam Gillespie 1 photos



Fuhua (Oscar) Lin 4 photos

Hiking the Camino in Spain

Gorge St. George Dam

Jon Dron commented on a bookmark Jane McGonigal: COMP 650: Social Computing 21 months ago

Great! Though only 13 minutes long, this covers the...

Maighan Peuramaki-Brown published a blog post Pod...

If you have never heard this podcast series, give a list...

Maighan Peuramaki-Brown published a blog post What...

AU-Landing-Project/au\_subgroups

AU-Landing-Project/Welcomer-1.8.x

AU-Landing-Project/Extendafriend-1.8.x

AU-Landing-Project/rssimport

AU-Landing-Project/Notification-Subjects

Show 41 more repositories...



A safe space

~

A social learning commons

~

A social construction kit

~

No one in control, no hierarchies, few rules

~

Persistent - boundary-crossing - beyond  
the course



# A Web 1.5 course

- self-paced
- role-free
- cooperative - all students are also teachers
- no assignments, no grades
- open, flexible ways to learn
- open, flexible, decoupled assessment - portfolio-based, grades for outcomes
- social by design
- permeable boundaries
- persistence of membership



thinking in systems

suggesting

decoupled learning and assessment

revealing boundaries

filtering

inspiring

recommending

feeding back (and forward)

finding

caring



# Teaching in Web 1.5

listening

watching

responding

seeking, not setting, direction

designing for cooperation

role modelling

accommodating

**letting go**

being a co-traveller

supporting

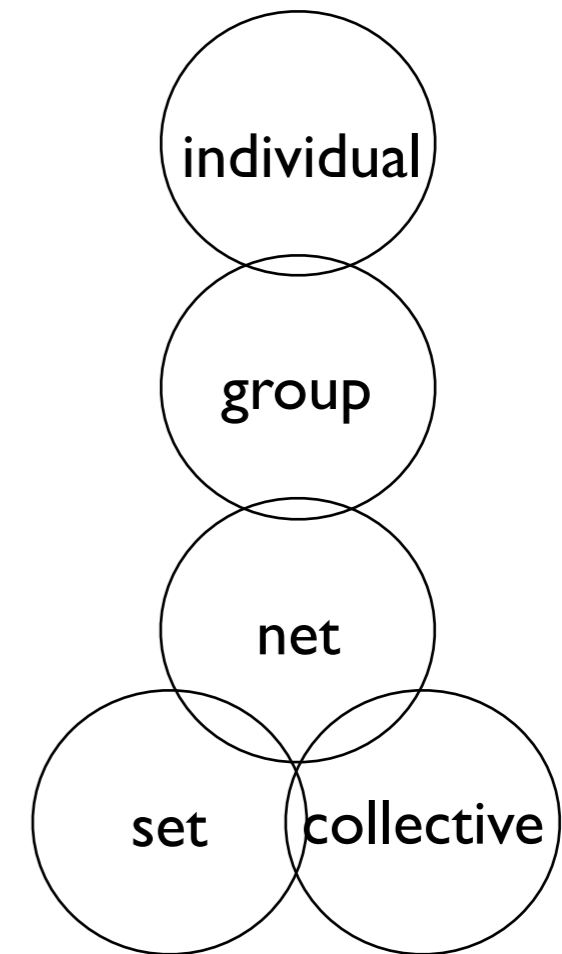
# Generations of distance learning pedagogies

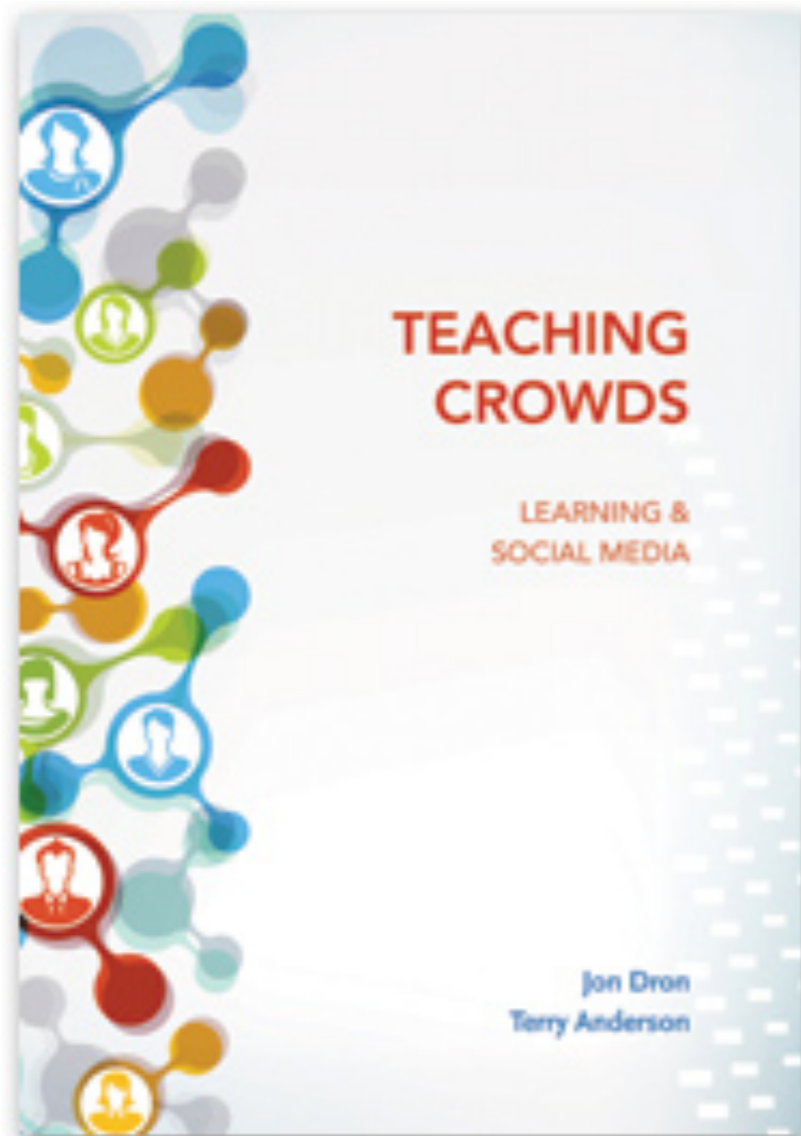
**1. Behaviourist/Cognitive**

**2. Social constructivist**

**3. Connectivist**

**4. Holist (coming soon?)**





<http://teachingcrowds.ca>

# Thank you!



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



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



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



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

[profile/jond](https://www.linkedin.com/profile/jond)

<https://jondron.ca/>

