



# Orchestrating lifelong learning

Jon Dron  
EDDE presentation, October 2013

# things that teach

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

# why teachers?

use the whiteboard to suggest ideas

process management

pathfinding

motivation

help

support

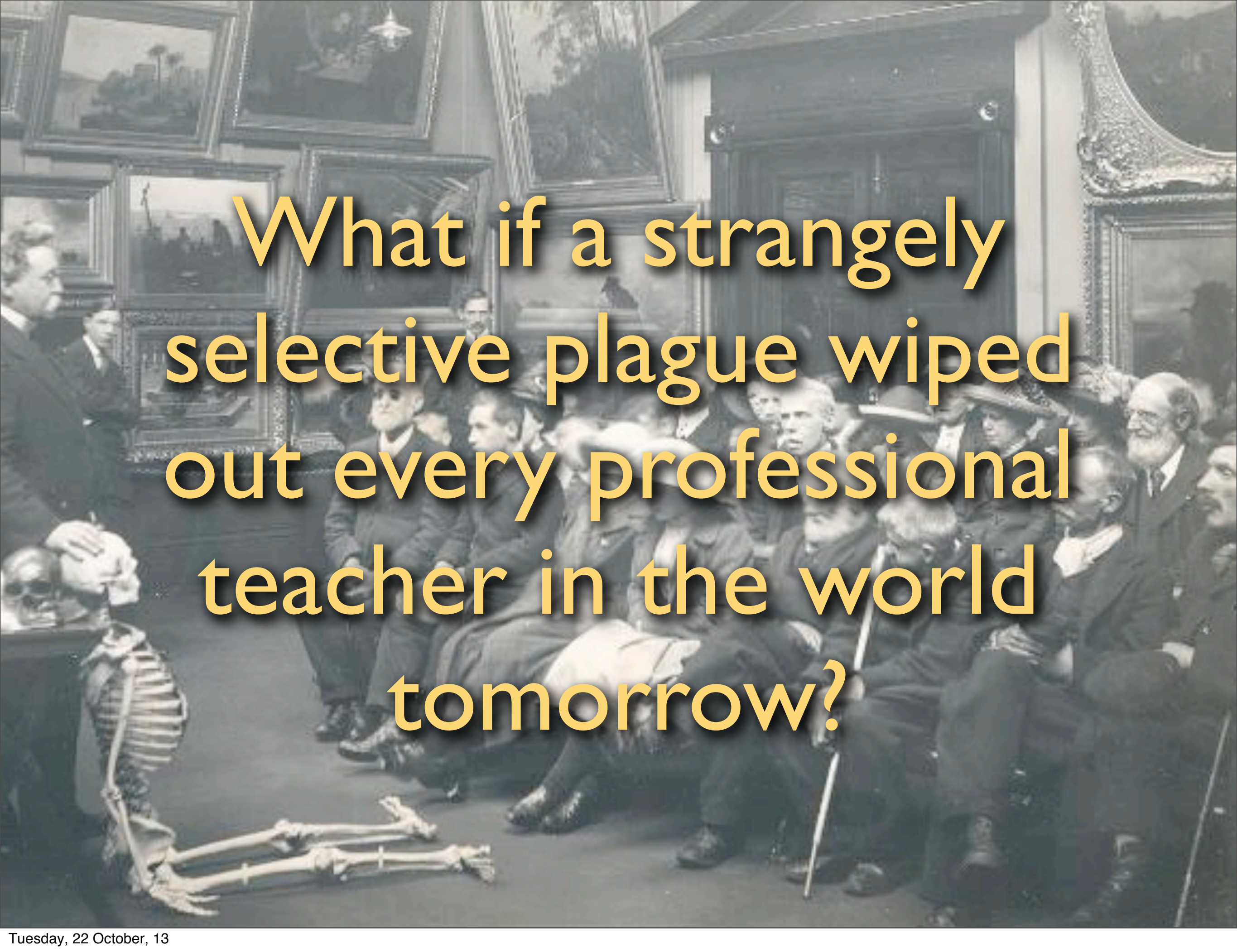
feedback

expert knowledge

accreditation

friendship

orchestration

A black and white photograph of a museum gallery. In the foreground, a human skeleton is lying on the floor. A crowd of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered around, looking at the skeleton. The gallery walls are covered with framed paintings. The text "What if a strangely selective plague wiped out every professional teacher in the world tomorrow?" is overlaid in yellow on the image.

What if a strangely selective plague wiped out every professional teacher in the world tomorrow?

# what do teachers do?

use the whiteboard to suggest ideas

managing      telling      finding  
filtering      designing  
guiding  
making things safe      showing  
problematizing      challenging  
inspiring      helping  
supporting      modelling  
caring      encouraging

# What/who teaches?

use the whiteboard to suggest ideas



learners authors designers  
legislators buildings playgrounds librarians  
timetablers books editors lecture halls  
TVs desks artists  
cooks directors researchers postal workers  
committee structures cleaners LMSs pens  
tweets instructional designers games hashtags  
architects Wikipedia editors technicians  
actors indexes computers production staff  
bloggers programmers radios teachers  
clothing designers films

# The teaching gestalt

teaching as  
orchestration

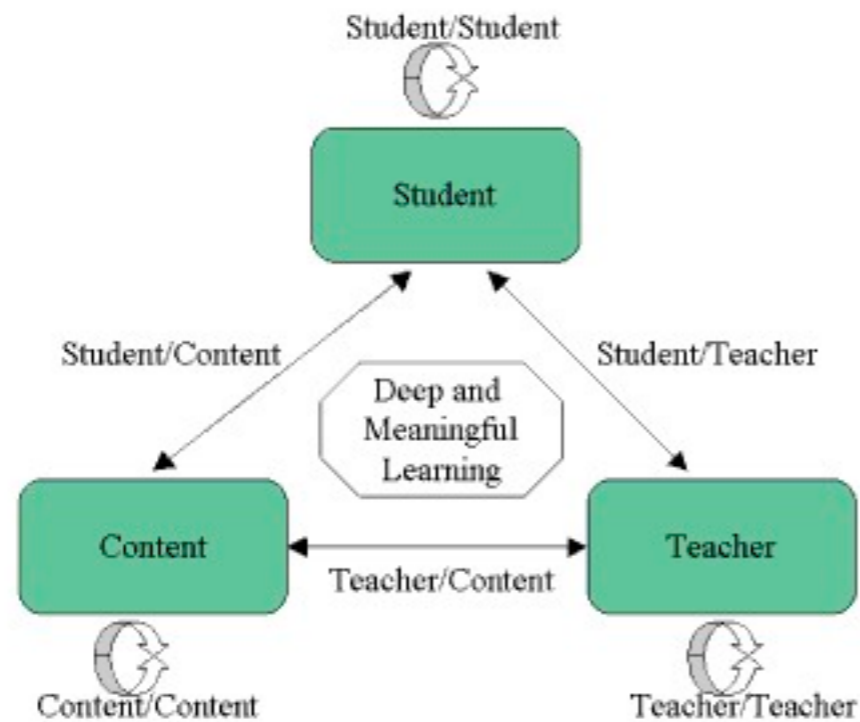


almost *every* learning  
transaction involves at  
least two teachers

**systems teach**

# Interaction equivalency

(Terry Anderson)



<http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/149/230>

all of which  
leads  
circuitously  
to...



orchestrating lifelong  
learning

**You want to learn  
something.**

**What do you do?**

**Traditional teaching is  
about groups**



power relationships  
sequence membership  
exclusion rules  
duration norms  
hierarchies pace  
collaboration or contest  
structure names  
rites of joining and leaving

# Some group problems

- pacing
- group dynamics
- group-think
- administrative overhead
- limited expertise

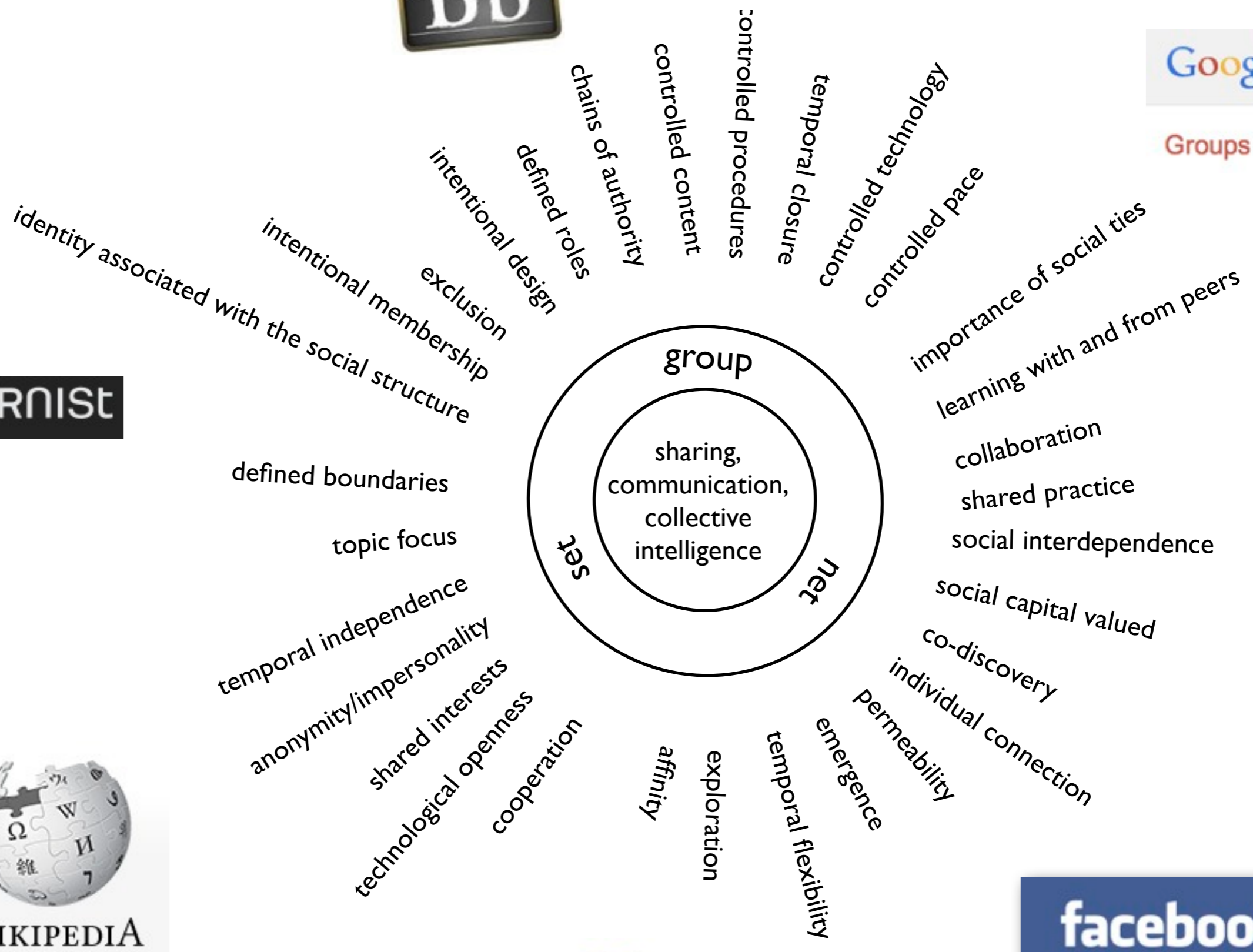
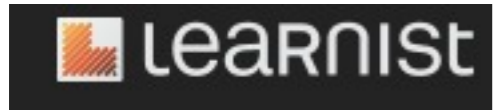


# other social forms





Groups



# some issues

## **Nets**

- filter bubbles
- lack of direction
- inefficiency

## **Sets**

- flaming, griefing, trolling
- finding the right set
- reliability

# collectives

The collage illustrates the cycle of 'capture', 'processing', and 'presentation' for collectives. It features:

- capture:** A search engine results page for 'stigmergy' with three search results.
- processing:** A snippet from the Wikipedia article 'Stigmergy'.
- presentation:** A bar chart showing 'Total citations' for 'Three generations of distance education pedagogy' from 2010 to 2013, and two book covers: 'Forget a Mentor, Find a Sponsor: The...' and 'Managers as Mentor Building...'.

Three large circles labeled 'capture', 'processing', and 'presentation' are overlaid on the collage, with arrows indicating a clockwise cycle between them.

**Search results for 'stigmergy':**

- Stigmergy - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia  
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stigmergy  
Stigmergy is a mechanism of indirect coordination between individuals or agents, acting through a public display of information in the environment. The basic principle is that the trace left in the environment by an agent, influences the actions of other agents. This process is often used by social insects, such as ants and bees.  
History - Stigmergic behavior in insects - Stigmergic behavior
- Stigmergic Collaboration: The Evolution of Group Work  
journal.media-culture.org.au/0605/03-elliott.php  
by S Collaboration - Related articles
- Stigmergy - the secret of complex organization  
evolutionofcomputing.org/Multicellular/Stigmergy.html  
Aug 20, 2013 - Stigmergy is where individual parts of the system coordinate their actions one another indirectly by modifying their local environment.

**Wikipedia snippet:**

**Stigmergy** is a form of indirect coordination between individuals or agents, acting through a public display of information in the environment. The basic principle is that the trace left in the environment by an agent, influences the actions of other agents. This process is often used by social insects, such as ants and bees.

**Citations chart:**

Year	Citations per year
2010	0
2011	1
2012	2
2013	3

**Scholar articles:**

Three generations of distance education pedagogy  
T Anderson, J Dron - The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Education, 2010  
Cited by 127 - Related articles - All 12 versions

# Generations of distance learning pedagogies

- 1. Behaviourist/Cognitive** – *Self Paced, Individual Study,*
- 2. Social constructivist** – *Groups, classes*
- 3. Connectivist** – *Networks*
- 4. Holist** - *Sets and Collectives*

individual

group

net

set

# Distributed content

The collage illustrates distributed content across different platforms:

- Video thumbnails:** "An Open Letter to Educators" (6:29), "Athabasca Landing" (8:15), "Videochat tool - Overview" (2:00), and a thumbnail showing a hand holding a smartphone.
- Personal Website:** "Jon Dron's home page" (jondron.athabascau.ca/), "Dr. Jon Dron - School of Computing and Information Systems", and "Home - Jon Dron - Athabasca University".
- Social Media:** A feed with categories like "Philosophy" (Existentialism in Literature and Film), "Lifestyle" (The New Million Dollar Starter Home, Life Hacks: Camping), and "Social Sciences" (Teaching Resources for Ancient Egypt, Teaching Kids about the Statue of Liberty, 5 Social Theories Explained By Crazy Moments on "The Bachelor").
- Wikipedia:** The Wikipedia logo and a snippet of the article "Stigmergy".

WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

- Main page
- Contents
- Featured content
- Current events
- Random article
- Donate to Wikipedia
- Wikimedia Shop

Article **Talk**

## Stigmergy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Stigmergy** is a mechanism of self-organization in which subsequent actions tend to be influenced by the actions of other agents.

Stigmergy is a form of self-organization in which simple agents, who lack any direct communication, interact to create a complex structure.

**Contents** [hide]

- 1 History
- 2 Stigmergic behavior in low-level systems



# Distributed support

A screenshot of the Stack Overflow 'Top Questions' page. The page shows a list of questions with their respective vote counts, answer counts, and view counts. The top question is titled '"Please specify Android SDK" in Android Studio 0.2' with 0 votes, 0 answers, and 1 view. Other questions include 'Vimeo Continues to Play when back pressed' and 'Load image into div, PHP and jQuery Involved'.

A screenshot of a 'Recently recommended content' section. It features a post titled 'Teaching gestalts' by Jon Dron, dated 16 hours ago. The post discusses teaching, gestalt, learning, technology, education, and university. It includes a small image and a link to a discussion of teaching and learning in general.

A banner titled 'MOOC MOOC' featuring a list of articles by Sean Michael Morris, Pete Rorabaugh, Jesse Stommel, Petra Dierkes-Thrun, and Robin. Below the list is a black and white image of a bust of a person's head. The text 'Take Me to the MOOC!' is written in red at the bottom.

Athabasca Unive  
LANDING

A navigation bar for 'The Wire' website. It includes a logo, the text 'Explore the Landing', a user profile icon labeled 'You', and a 'Your Network' button. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'The Wire'.

facebook

A screenshot of a Twitter profile for Jon Dron. The profile shows 431 tweets, 89 following, and 363 followers. It includes a 'Compose new Tweet...' button and a list of 'Who to follow' including Hack Education, Milos Kravcik, Tina Berseghian, and Mind Shift.

A screenshot of a tweet titled 'First thoughts on first assignment' by Christopher Wood, dated January 21, 2012. The tweet discusses writing, identity, craft, and initial thoughts on reading Ferns paper. It includes a link to a discussion of teaching and learning in general.

A screenshot of an email inbox for jon.dron@brighton.ac.uk. The inbox shows 40586 messages, with 1 unread. It includes a search bar, a 'Google' dropdown, and a list of email messages with timestamps and subject lines.

# Distributed accreditation



BADGES



OpenEd Researcher

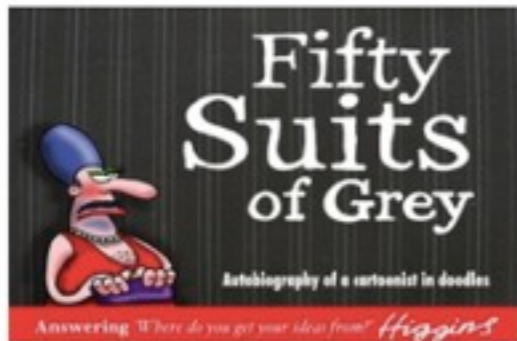
Skills & Expertise

Most endorsed for...

- 7 E-Learning
- 7 Distance Learning
- 9 Moodle
- 8 Educational Technology
- 5 Lecturing
- 3 University Teaching
- 3 Teaching
- 3 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 queues held me for just a while. Queues get a...

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

Athabasca University  
**E-LAB PORTFOLIO**

# Sense-making

The image is a collage of digital tools and content related to sense-making. At the top, a dashboard shows navigation tabs: "Your Dashboard", "Research", "teaching", "My stuff", "266 moodle", "Following", and "MyAU". Below this are three panels: "Group activity" (showing a comment by Greg Widmeyer on a blog), "Group membership" (listing "Adobe Connect Users"), and "Tag cloud" (with tags like "lms, assessment, meeting, podcast, plugin, journal").

In the center, a browser window displays a blog post titled "Can I get an online comp-sci degree from a respected institution?" by Walter Glenn from lifehacker.com. To the left of the browser is a "pocket" sidebar with items like "40-hour work-week as a tool of emiserating economic growth" and "Motivating Students with Teaching".

At the bottom, an Evernote Atlas interface is shown, displaying a grid of maps for different locations with note counts: "All Notes" (448), "Vancouver" (352), "Edmonton" (44), "Toronto", "Montreal", and "Maastricht". A sidebar on the left lists shortcuts and recent notes.

Text from the blog post is visible on the right side of the collage: "for the course here on Lifehacker. Each day, we regularly helpful or insightful, along with other great you have missed. Check out these discussions and even more wonderful!"

**What roles are left for  
teachers?**

# talk to me more!

- email: [jond@athabascau.ca](mailto:jond@athabascau.ca)
- Web: [jondron.athabascau.ca](http://jondron.athabascau.ca)
- Social: [landing.athabascau.ca/profile/jond](http://landing.athabascau.ca/profile/jond)
- Twitter: [jondron](https://twitter.com/jondron)

These slides: <https://landing.athabascau.ca/file/view/417326/orchestrating-lifelong-learning>