

The posthuman university? Hybrid spaces and literacy practices.

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February 2011

Overview

1. Ubiquitous technologies in HE
2. Posthuman university, cyborg literacies?
3. The VLE and the lecture
4. 'Plagiarism' and the writing subject
5. Conclusions & discussion

Centrality of representation

- Academic literacies as situated social practices (e.g. Lea & Stierer 2009)
- Language, text and identity work (e.g. Ruth 2008)
- Foucauldian understandings of discourse in the academy (e.g. Smith 2008)
- Semiotics & multimodality (Kress & van Leeuwen 2003)
- Cultural studies approaches (e.g. Archer 2008)



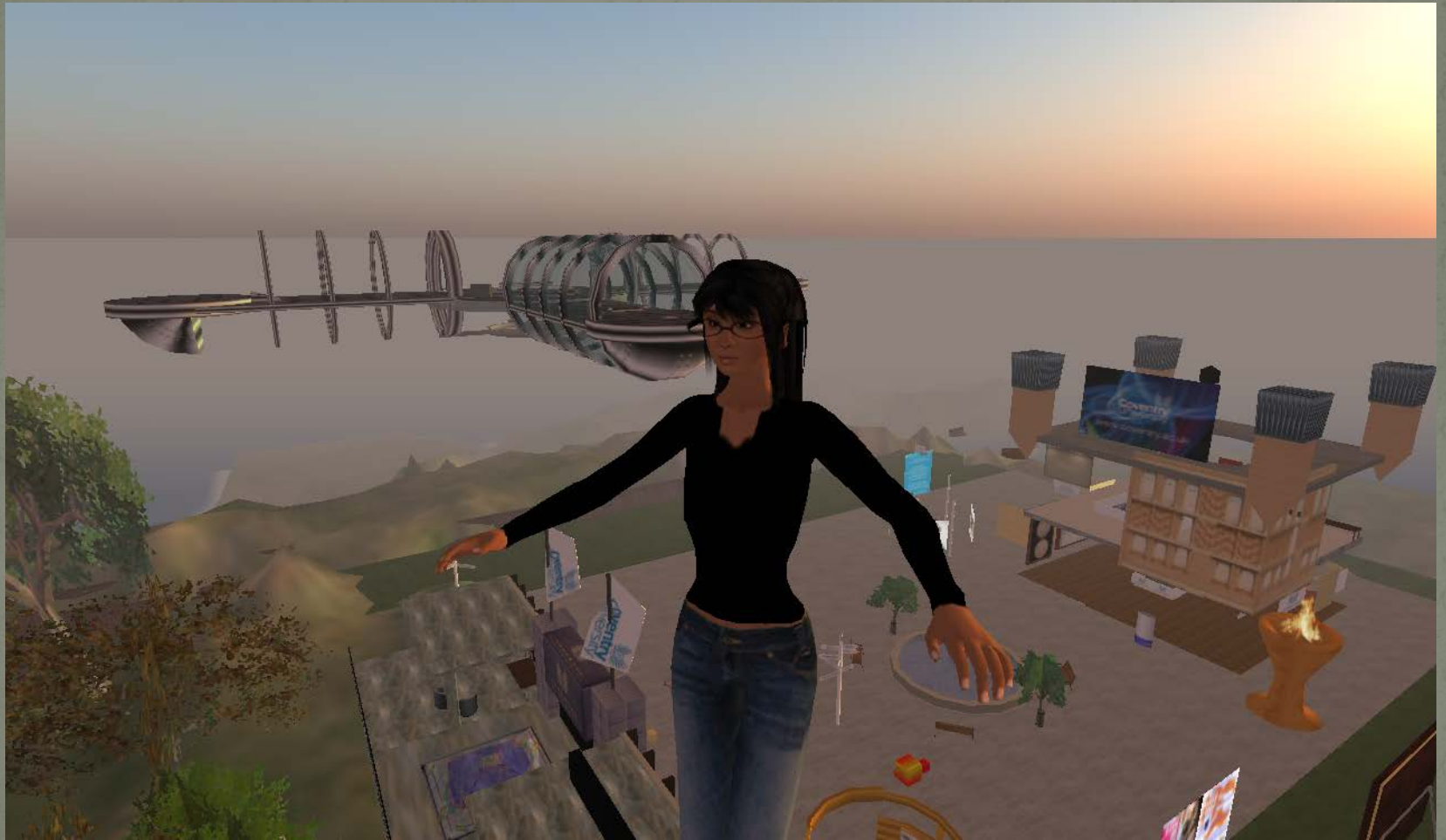
www.cearta.ie/2009/06/laptop-fever/













Distributed identities

The image shows a screenshot of the TweetDeck application interface, which is a multi-column social media aggregator. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Search Sidebar (Left):** Contains three search filters: #condemnation, #ge2010, and #labour. Each filter has a corresponding search icon and a list of tweets.
- Tweet Columns (Main):** There are four columns of tweets. Each column displays a list of tweets with user avatars, names, and text. The tweets are sorted by time, with the most recent at the top. The columns are labeled with their respective search filters: #condemnation, #ge2010, #labour, and #libdems.
- Search: #libdems (Right):** A search results window for the #libdems filter, showing a list of tweets. The first tweet is from Alastair Campbell, stating: "Alastair Campbell complains about @nickclegg taking the #LibDems to the right. Bit rich coming from a Blairite!".
- Bottom Bar:** A taskbar at the bottom of the screen showing the Windows Start button, several application icons, and the system clock displaying 14:25.

The tweets in the columns are related to the 2010 UK general election, specifically focusing on the Liberal Democrats' position and the coalition government's formation. Key tweets include:

- RT @Sammikaybaby: Is rather happy about this #libdem #conservative government. <<< Glad I'm not alone. #ConDemNation #ge2010
- RT @Greenleftie: RT @Fanfichthursday: Upper-class Tories & Liberals dividing up the spoils. It's nice to be back in the C19th again! #ConDemNation
- Outstanding! The new govt has scrapped the ID card! <http://is.gd/c7mNN> #NO2ID #ConDemNation
- RT @Fanfichthursday: Upper-class Tories & Liberals dividing up the spoils. It's nice to be back in the C19th again! #ConDemNation
- Upper-class Tories & Liberals dividing up the spoils again. It's nice to be back in the C19th again! #ConDemNation
- up to 40 open browser tabs now... 37 for work, one for fun and 3 to get my head around #ConDemNation
- I signed the petition to repeal the Digital Economy Act <http://bit.ly/deapetition> #DEbill #DEAct #GE2010
- RT @mole9: I signed the petition to repeal the Digital Economy Act <http://bit.ly/deapetition> #DEbill #DEAct #GE2010
- I signed the petition to repeal the Digital Economy Act <http://bit.ly/deapetition> #DEbill #DEAct #GE2010
- @daily_politics Can you find more on the 55% "no confidence" vote and also the 200 extra Lords... are we in a dictatorial gov now? #ge2010
- RickSeymour, (+) Thu 13 May 14:20 via TweetDeck
- Peppa's back on the @daily_politics but Andrew puts her back in her sty as she is not needed after all <http://tinyurl.com/2u4y84v> #ge2010
- daily_politics, (+) Thu 13 May 14:19 via web
- Can see coalition bust up on the horizon re: raising tuition fees. Not least because #LibDems MPs signed NUS pledge to vote against. #ge2010
- bigmouthsa, (+) Thu 13 May 14:18 via web
- RT @greenpeaceuk: it's now or never: we're backing voting reform. are you? <http://bit.ly/5EVUC> #ge2010 #abackback
- RT @poblishLab: RT @tristanosborne "NHS Insurance Question": Nick Clegg has called for the NHS to be 'broken up' and said th... <http://bit.ly/cdK4tn> #labour
- takingbackemma, (+) Thu 13 May 14:23 via Poblsh
- Curious how none of the #Labour or disaffected #LibDem tweets are conce... with the £176bn deficit #coalition #wegov #ukelection
- TJW225, (+) Thu 13 May 14:23 via TweetDeck
- RT @poblishLab: RT @tristanosborne "NHS Insurance Question": Nick Clegg has called for the NHS to be 'broken up' and said th... <http://bit.ly/cdK4tn> #labour
- jonwillchambers, (+) Thu 13 May 14:21 via Poblsh
- @fingerinthewind Don't let Miliband bros stitch up #labour leadership contest!! Come on MP's show some bottle!
- fingerinthewind, (+) Thu 13 May 14:21 via Twitterific
- #labour MP accused of homophobic abuse (<http://bit.ly/cQdV8q>) Not2worry though, If the image is anything to go by it happened in the mid-90s
- hubare, (+) Thu 13 May 14:20 via TweetDeck
- Don't let Miliband bros stitch up #labour leadership contest!! Come on MP's show some bottle!
- fingerinthewind, (+) Thu 13 May 14:19 via Twitterific
- Just got back a HC3 certificate for help with dental treatment costs, and it's an absolute joke. THANKS #LABOUR
- Alastair Campbell complains about @nickclegg taking the #LibDems to the right. Bit rich coming from a Blairite!
- colmacuait, (+) Wed 12 May 23:28 via Witter
- 1/100
- Search: #libdems
- RT @markpack: Good news on #LibDems membership: several hundred new members via party website every day since last Thursday
- PaulHulbert, (+) Thu 13 May 13:22 via UberTwitter
- #LibDems winning 89% of the votes in the #EU Parliament while Tories only 59% (in the small ECR group) <http://bit.ly/9qSoXe> #ukelection
- ggbrunt, (+) Thu 13 May 13:15 via web
- I wonder how much Clegg got for his granny, wonder if he could get a fair price for mine as am abit skint!! #libdems #ge10 #ukelection
- dordandy, (+) Thu 13 May 13:07 via Echofon
- Funny: #LibDems are the major card of the gvt to play a role on the #EU scene given Tory isolation <http://bit.ly/b6lq1z> #ukelection #ge210
- ggbrunt, (+) Thu 13 May 13:04 via web
- RT @DolphinHotel: #LibDems in Scotland and NE England: go back to your constituents and prepare for oblivion

Facebook | Lesley Gourlay - London - Windows Internet Explorer


http://www.facebook.com/people/Lesley-Gourlay/529314410

lesley gourlay









Facebook | Lesley Gourlay - London

facebook Home Profile Friends Inbox 1 Lesley Gourlay Settings Log out Search

Wrong **Lesley Gourlay**? Search for others: Search

 **Lesley Gourlay**
Send Lesley Gourlay a message | View Lesley Gourlay's friends

Here are some of **Lesley Gourlay's** friends:

 Lisa Lieberman  Sadik Dawoud  Claire Wallace  Pat Gannon-Leary  David Kaye  Kate Parr  Annette Boon  Andrew Brady

Lesley Gourlay is a fan of:
TV programmes
House
The Thick of it

This is your public search listing
Because you are logged in, you can click through to your Profile, but others will need to log in to contact you.
[Edit search privacy settings](#)

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Applications Chat (5)

Done Internet | Protected Mode: On 100% 16:44

Facebook | Lesley G... RE: extended inducti... Microsoft PowerPoi... Document1 - Micro...



<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/HPS/Haraway/CyborgManifesto.html>

How we became posthuman

‘ ...the posthuman view configures human being so that it can be seamlessly articulated with intelligent machines. In the posthuman, there are no essential differences or absolute demarcations between bodily existence and computer simulation, cybernetic mechanism and biological organism, robot teleology and human goals’

(Hayles 1999: 3)

- 'In the posthuman, there is no essential difference or absolute demarcations between bodily existence and computer simulation, cybernetic mechanism and biological organism, robot teleology and human goals' (Hayles 1999: 3)
- the posthuman subject as:
- '...an amalgam, a collection of heterogenous components, a material-informational entity whose boundaries undergo continuous construction and reconstruction' (Hayles 1999:3)

From cyborg to cognisphere

- Katherine Hayles (2006)
- Argues that Haraway's cyborg is powerful metaphor but now 'not *networked* enough' (2006: 159)
- The individual no longer appropriate unit of analysis
- '...incorporation of intelligent machines into everyday practices creates distributed cognitive systems that include human and non-human actors; distributed cognition in turn is linked to a dispersed sense of self...' (2006: 162)

The posthuman university?

- Material university also characterised by hybridity in terms of virtuality, immersion & co-presence.
 - Ubiquitous networks & the VLE
 - Laptops & mobile devices
 - Distributed identities (e.g. Turkle 1995)
 - Fragmentation, the uncanny, smooth vs striated space
Sian Bayne (2008, 2010) (Deleuze & Guattari 1987)

The posthuman university?

- **Immersion, & virtuality & co-presence** are used to theorise Web 2.0 & virtual environments. However, may also have purchase when applied to the wider university

The university as a media system

- 'Elearning' and 'face to face' as false binary
- F2F as 'natural'
- Technologies of mediation , oracy and print literacies
- Lecture room as symbolically charged space
- Printing press unseating academic authority
- Friesen & Cressman (2010) - Kittler (2004)
- Link to current moral panic discourses

Cyborg literacies?

- The screen has superceded the page (Kress & van Leeuwen 2001)
- Virtual worlds require a 'constellation' of literacy practices (Steinkueler 2007)
- Complexity /hybrity demand greater focus on the visual in research (Gourlay 2010) and on 'Cyborg literacies' of students and staff (Gourlay 2011)
- Digital mediation has lead to 'flickering signifiers' (Hayles 1999)

Flickering signification

- ‘When narrative functionalities change, a new kind of reader is produced by the text. The material effects of flickering signification ripple outwards...the impatience that some readers now feel with print texts...has a physiological as well as a psychological basis. They miss pushing the keys and seeing the cursor blinking at them... Changes in narrative functionalities are deeper than the structural or thematic characteristics of a particular genre, for they shift the embodied responses and expectations that different kinds of textualities evoke. When new media are introduced, the changes transform the environment as a whole’

(Hayles 1999: 48)

The VLE

- The VLE has changed the temporal and embodied nature of prototypical f2f encounters
- Textual practices surround the 'lecture'
- Event itself is closely bound in a tight network of digitally mediated textual practices.
- Event has become irretrievably permeable to digital mediation
- These factors render the 'f2f' encounter hybrid, multiple and posthuman



‘Plagiarism’

- Posthuman reading of ‘plagiarism’
- Hybridised, digital, multivocal and distributed textual practices around reading and desk research
- Text itself essentially masquerades as an artefact from print literacies: analogue , positing a stable, single subject as author .



Conclusions

- Ubiquitous networked technologies foreground notions of virtuality, immersion and copresence
- The wider university may be seen as hybrid and *posthuman* in terms of subjectivities and representational practices
- This creates tensions surrounding the notions of:
 - stable and singular textual authorship
 - embodied vs virtual
 - digital vs analogue
 - individual vs distributed

Thank you - any questions?

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