Posthumanism, digital education, and MOOCs

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Posthumanism

‘a convenient shorthand for a general crisis in something that “we” must just as helplessly call “humanism”’ (Badmington 2000, p2).
We might call this the myth of essential and universal Man: essential, because humanity — human-ness — is the inseparable and central essence, the defining quality, of human beings; universal, because that essential humanity is shared by all human beings, of whatever time or place. (Davies 1997, p24)

the ‘break with the past’ of the Renaissance, the ‘return to the source’ of ancient Greek culture, as well as the ‘unbroken continuity with the present’ of modernism (Davies 1997, p103)

- Essentialism
- Universalism
- Autonomy
Humanism and Education

education as ‘the dutiful child of the Enlightenment’ (Usher & Edwards, 1994, p. 24)

human beings as ‘both the instrument and the end product of education’ (Pedersen, 2010, p. 241)

Kant and reason
Rousseau and post-Enlightenment Romanticism
20th C: Maslow’s hierarchy of needs and Rogers’s ‘actualising tendency’
Critical posthumanism


posthumanism is 'the historical moment that marks the end of the opposition between Humanism and anti-humanism' (Braidotti 2013, p37)

'delusion of grandeur in positing ourselves as the moral guardian of the world and as the motor of human evolution' (Braidotti 2013, p25 my emphasis)
• Essentialism: there is a core ‘humanness’ which is brought out through education.
• Universalism: a global desire for education, specifically from elite western institutions
• Autonomy: self-direction as the ultimate educational aim, a realisation and discovery of an ‘inner self’ through education.
So Long Stuffy Lecture Halls: Coursera Just Tripled Its Digital Campus

Online Higher-Education Startup Coursera Is Taking Over the World

Berkeley Joins Harvard, MIT Offering Free Online Classes

A world-class education--for free

Universities offering some courses online to a global student body
Growth of MOOCs

Since the first blockbuster MOOCs debuted, in 2011, the cumulative number of courses started or scheduled has reached nearly 4,000.

Chronicle of Higher Education
corporate world
space
algorithms
‘We aim to empower people with education that will improve their lives, the lives of their families, and the communities they live in’ (Coursera)

‘[r]evolutions are made in the name not of “you or me”, but of “humanity” (Davies 1997, p124)
Thanks to **UDACITY**, I landed **my dream job**

Thanks to Udacity, Tamir realized his desire to pursue a career in programming. He learned industry-relevant skills in our courses, and is now a software engineer at Square.

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‘a hastily reconstructed sense of the pan-human bond induced by globalisation’ (Braidotti 2013, p42)
transforming ‘Europe’ from ‘a concrete geo-political location, and a specifically grounded history, into an abstract concept and normative ideal that can be implemented across space and time’ (Braidotti 2011, p210)

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- Patrick, your edX Community Manager
University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania (commonly referred to as Penn or UPenn) is a private university, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States. A member of the Ivy League, Penn is the fourth-oldest institution of higher education in the United States, and considers itself to be the first university in the United States with both undergraduate and graduate studies.

Greek and Roman Mythology
An Introduction to Operations
Design: Creation of Artifacts in Society
Princeton University

Princeton University is a private research university located in Princeton, New Jersey, United States. It is one of the eight universities of the Ivy League, and one of the nine Colonial Colleges founded before the American Revolution.

Statistics One
Sep 22nd 2013

Computer Architecture
Sep 23rd 2013

Algorithms, Part I
Feb 4th 2013
World Map of Enrollment

All HarvardX Offerings (All Time)
Estimated Worldwide Registration as of December 28, 2014

1,966,577 registrants
in 195 countries

HarvardX Insights: http://harvardx.harvard.edu/harvardx-insights
2008: CCK08
Stephen Downes, George Siemens
The First Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

http://ltc.umanitoba.ca/wiki/Connectivism_2008

Connectivism and Connective Knowledge 2008
[i]nstead of an infrastructure of social networks and knots, everything is in movement. Relations of presence and absence are being dynamically reconfigured (Callon and Law 2004, p7)
NEW GEOGRAPHIES OF LEARNING

DISTANCE EDUCATION AND BEING ‘AT’ THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

http://edinspace.weebly.com
The study spaces of participants on the MSc in Digital Education at The University of Edinburgh
by James Lamb and Michael Sean Gallagher  Visit http://edinspace.weebly.com
Online can be the privileged mode

Distance is a positive principle, not a deficit.

Manifesto for teaching online 2015: https://onlineteachingmanifesto.wordpress.com/the-text/
algorithmic cultures
• Content
• Interaction and communication
• Assessment
• Learning?
...quantifying participant behaviours, categorising students into groups

profiling:
• age
• gender
• nationality
• educational background
• occupation
• mother tongue
• motivations for enrolling

different categorisations of MOOC participation:
• experienced and novice participants (Waite et al. 2013)
• ‘certified’, ‘only explored’, ‘only viewed’ and ‘only registered’ (Ho et al. 2014)
• ‘active’ and ‘passive’ participation’, and ‘lurking’ (Milligan et al. 2013)


FAREWELL AND
THANK YOU!

LAK16 was a huge success! We hope to see you at LAK17 at Vancouver, Canada!
Our Mission

Our mission is to bring accessible, affordable, engaging, and highly effective higher education to the world. We believe that higher education is a basic human right, and we seek to empower our students to advance their education and careers.

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data colonialism  (Knox 2015, 2016)

E-learning and Digital Cultures

Welcome to E-Learning and Digital Cultures

EDCMOOC Basics - what, where, how and when?
Discussion Forums
Course Guides
EDCMOOC News!

BLOCK 1
Utopias and Dystopias
Week 1: Looking to the past
Week 2: Looking to the future
Week 2 Responses

BLOCK 2
Being Human
Week 2: Reasserting the human

Week 1 Resources

Popular cultures

Film 1: Bandito Machine III (8:35)
Bendito Machine III: Now in HD
Watch on YouTube

This animated film tells the story of technological development in terms of ritual and worship - the characters in the film treat each new technology as god-like, appearing from the sky and causing the immediate substitution of the technology before it. What is this film suggesting are the ecological and social implications of an obsession or fixation on technology? Do the film's characters have any choice in relation to their technologies? What are the characteristics of various technologies as portrayed in this film?

Film 2: Inbox (8:37)
Inbox - Short Film
Watch on YouTube

Inbox is a quirky representation of the ways in which web-based technology connects people, the limitations of those connections, and the nature of communication in a mediated world. Depending on how you interpret the relationship between the two main characters, and the ending, you might argue that this is a utopian account, or a dystopian one - what do you think, and why?

Film 3: Thursday (7:34)
Thursday
Watch on YouTube

Thursday depicts a tension between a natural world and a technological world, with humans caught between the two. What message is the film presenting about technology? What problems and anxieties are described? Who or what has 'agency' in this?

Film 4: New Media (2:21)
NEWMEDIA
Watch on Vimeo

A very short, very grim representation of the effects of technology on humanity. There are definite visual echoes...

how digital technologies in education are *valued, imagined* and *represented*

digital cultures
Does technology improve education, or not?

Clarke's 3rd Law #edcmooc

Added yesterday. Got my imagination going to think of what I think would be magic...

It's A Happening!!

Hamish MacLeod's comment during this week's EDCMOOC Google Hangout was a fitting cap to this week’s discussion on being human, the importance of relationships and connecting with others in a Digital World, and my belief that Personal Learning Networks (PLN) must be an integral component to a successful MOOC.

Posted in Uncategorized
goodhorseymn 4 months ago
#EDCMOOC Who are the Gods that bestow upon them new technology? Are they the big tech companies (Apple, Google etc) that we have today? It’s a shame the people in the video were unable to re-purpose the old tech. Perhaps if they’d paid money for it, instead of being gifted it, they might have been more keen to re-use it.

Mobolaji Owoade 4 months ago
Scary video but a good metaphor that almost explains how some of us relate with technology. Yes technology provides great tools that should improve our lives. Ultimately technology should bend to us and not the other way round.

Jahneen Bean 4 months ago
#edomooc video definitely killed the radio star. Also smacks of our consumerist culture. We don’t fix we throw away when something else is available.

View all 4 replies ▼

Keir Thomas 4 months ago
@Jahneen Bean I know it is! I was just using the reference to jump into the discussion. I didn’t realise it was the first video to air on MTV though, so thanks for that little tidbit!

Read more

Jahneen Bean 3 months ago
@Keir Thomas I’m a little musically obsessed!

Reply · ↑

Vipul Bondal 3 months ago
#edomooc Beautiful interpretation that any new tech is usually confused, then adapted and eventually worshipped. The tech prevalent earlier gets discarded. In common parlance, we call it disruptive technology. There’s always one (some) who think different, and “invokes” yet another new tech that replaces (junks) the older new tech. Life continues!

Reply · ↑

drmohamad Ibrahim 3 months ago
#edomooc The effects of this video my interest, the film discusses the impact of technology on the human, the film explains the role of digital culture on classify people into groups, those groups are affected by technology, which is negatively affecting the group, and to another group, technology controls the human, when receiving negative
Bendito Machine III - Now in HD

Uploaded on Mar 25, 2009
Tercer episodio de Bendito Machine. Obedece sus preceptos.
Puedes colaborar con la producción de nuevos episodios en

Inbox - Short Film
by Curio Films
2,181,206 views
a locality that always includes an uncanny confrontation with its repressed excess: the monstrous contaminant that undermines notions of public/private dichotomy (Lewis and Kahn 2010, p13)
900,000 registered on the 16 Edinburgh MOOCs

32,868 studying at the University of Edinburgh