Learning for Uncertain Times

Prifysgol Aberystwyth University

Monday 8 July 2019

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bit.ly/AberLT19KN

Uncertain times

Topic	World 1: Trust yourself	
	Scenario 1 Informed choice	**Scenario 2** Independent consumers
Education		
Technology		
Learner Identity		
Curriculum		

Beyond Current Horizons

technology, children, schools and families

Uncertain times

What are the biggest uncertainties facing your students?

menti.com

CODE 17 13 81

Uncertain times

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Aberystwyth T&L conference

2 0 1 9

Gig economy	Insights survey	Digital wellbeing	Students as partners
Future of work	Lecture capture	Donald Trump	wikipedia
Brexit	Learner data	Fake news	Aber L&T Strategy
Problem solving	Critical thinking	Citizenship	Connected curriculum

The Guardian on the gig economy

Gig economy in Britain doubles, acc...
Britain's booming gig economy has ...
the guardian

OECD report on the future of work

OECD iLibrary | Home
The new OECD cross-searchable onl...
oecd-ilibrary

Oxford Internet Institute report on the gig economy

Gig economy platforms causing "un...
Study finds outsourcing companies ...
ox

More links (mainly teaching resources)

Change agents network
Teaching with open data
Follow the things
Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership and Change

Slogans for the C21st

Which of Douglas Coupland's 'Slogans for the C21st' speaks to you?

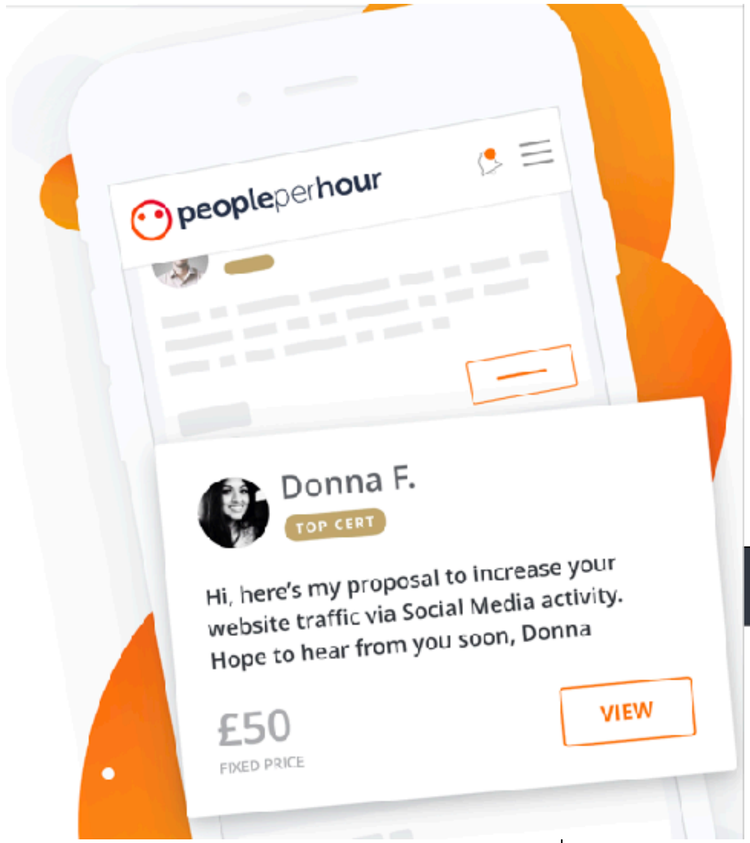
Slides on slideshare

Follow soon!

Economic uncertainties

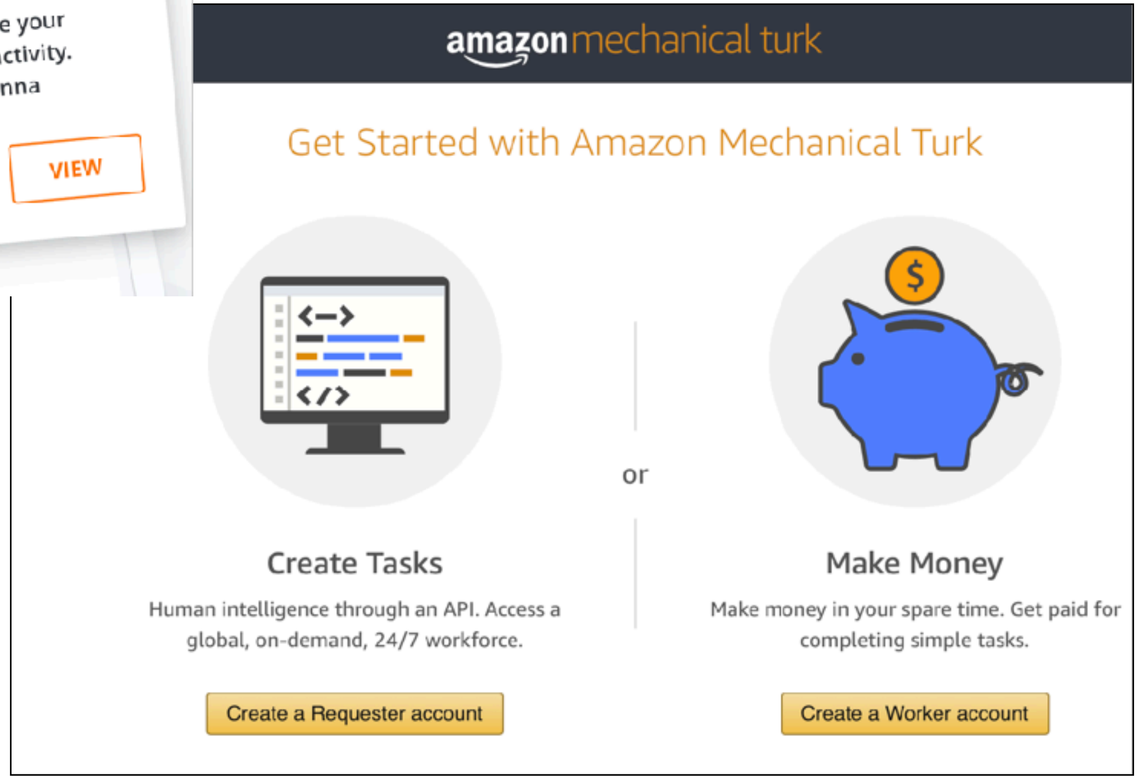
- **Risk of job automation** based on level of education (Nedelkoska & Quintini 2018)
- Around **8% jobs at high risk** of automation (Office for National Statistics, March 2019)
- Least at risk: doctors, academics and senior education professionals

Economic uncertainties

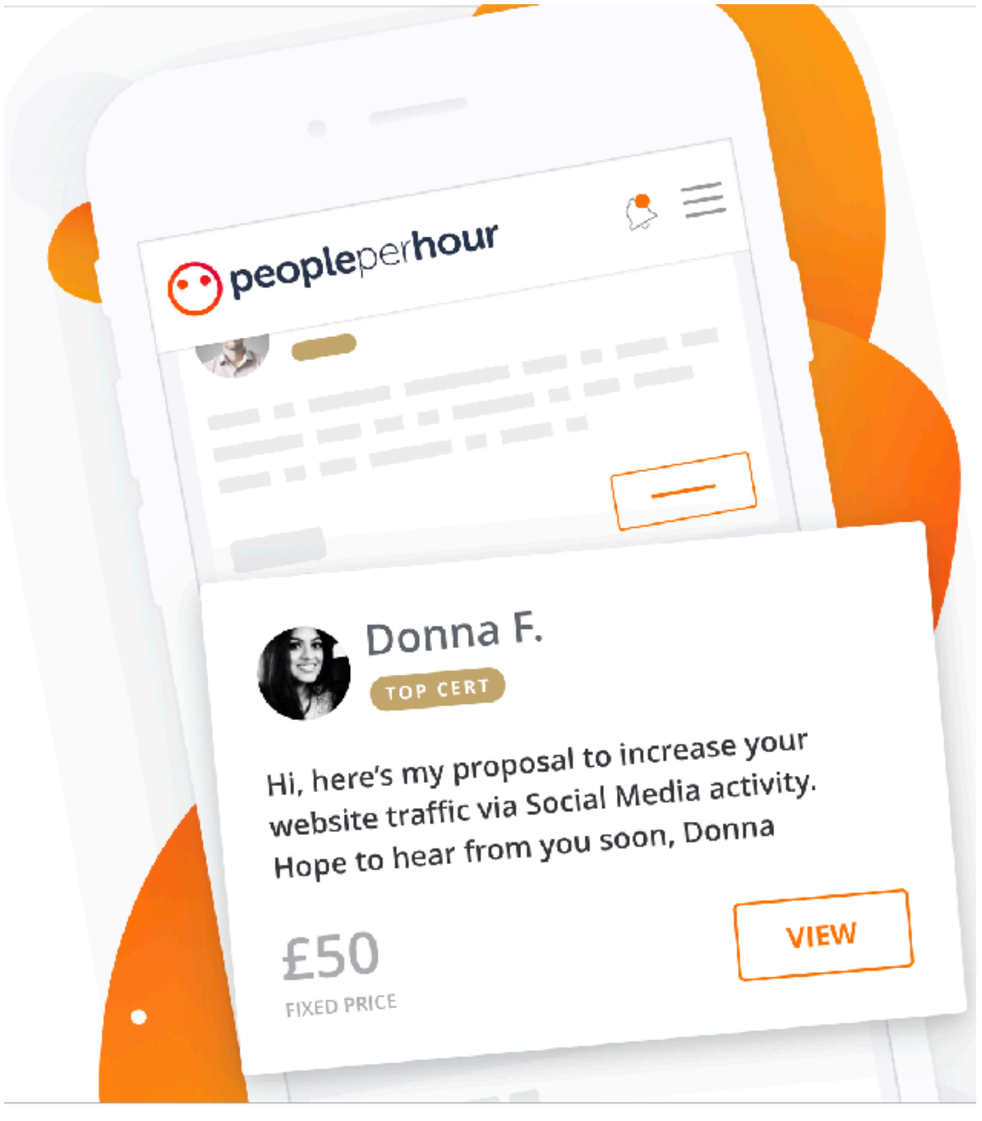


- Automation and globalisation
- Algorithms, AI and deep data
- Concentration of value in digital platforms
- Workplace surveillance

- 1.1 million gig economy workers
- 28% gig economy work is professional
- SE workers overtaking public sector
- 7-10 career changes in a working life



Economic uncertainties



According to PeoplePerHour.com, around 10 per cent of its 150,000 active users are students...

65 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds on the site say freelancing is part of their long-term plans.

Source: advice.milkround.com

Social uncertainties

- Texture of our (inter) personal lives
- Surveillance society
- New compulsions
- Data as identity: the cyborg self

Political uncertainties

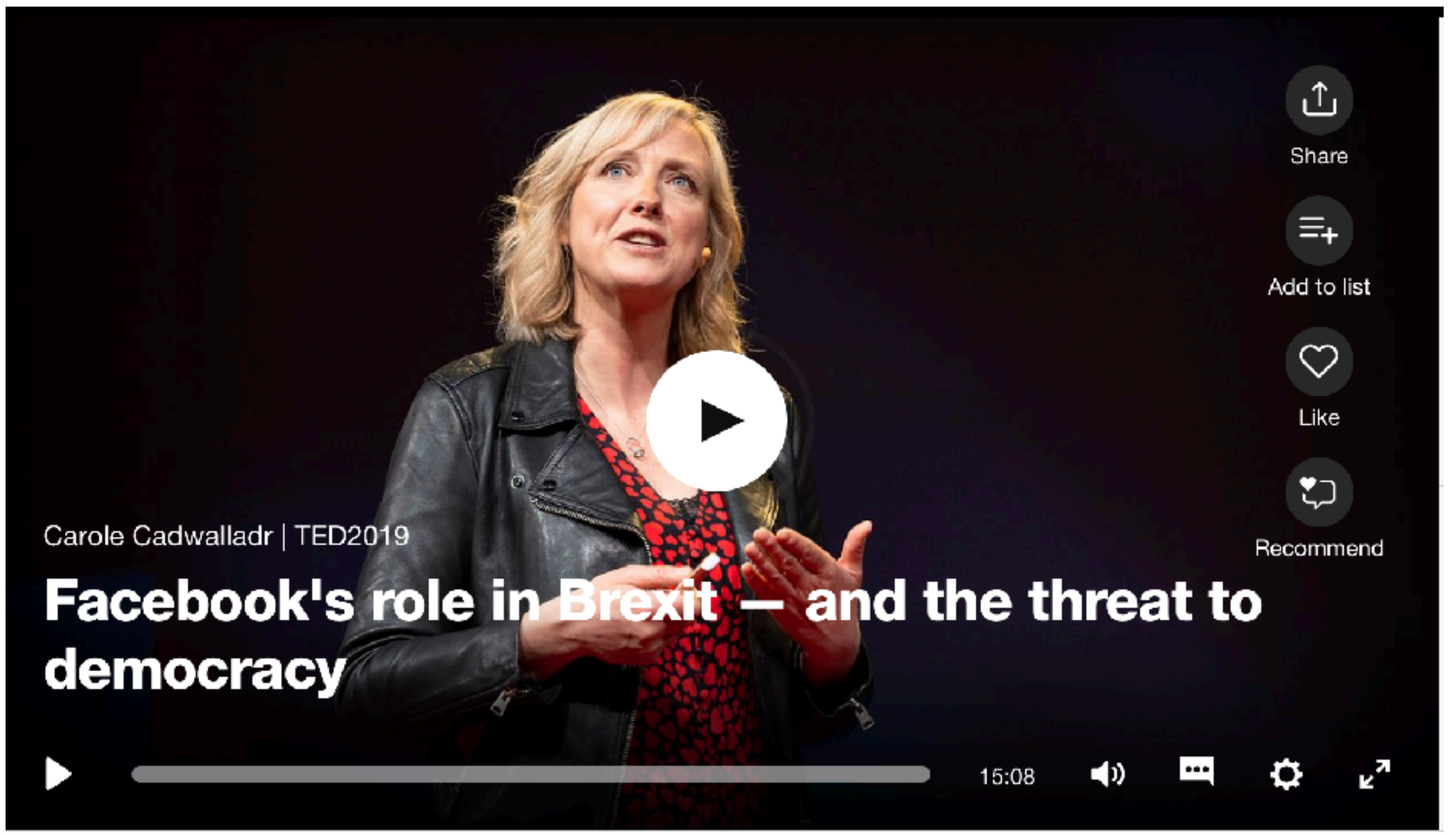
- Social media replacing journalism as main source of news
- New ways of manipulating attention, opinion and consent
- ‘Disruption’ spreads from digital to other spheres

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Twitter will soon be irrelevant if lowlifes are so easily able to hack into accounts.

Collapse Reply Retweet Favorite More

290 RETWEETS 128 FAVORITES



Environmental uncertainties

‘digitally aware’

‘actively engaged’

‘critical thinkers’

‘digitally aware’

‘actively engaged’

‘critical thinkers’

How does your subject (teaching) help students to become digital critical thinkers?

menti.com
CODE 17 13 81

‘digitally aware’ ‘actively engaged’ ‘critical thinkers’

If students get a sound education in the history, social effects and psychological biases of technology, they may grow to be adults who use technology rather than be used by it.

Neil Poster, in an interview (1996)

It’s the digital technologies themselves that will be shaping our world, both with and without our explicit cooperation.

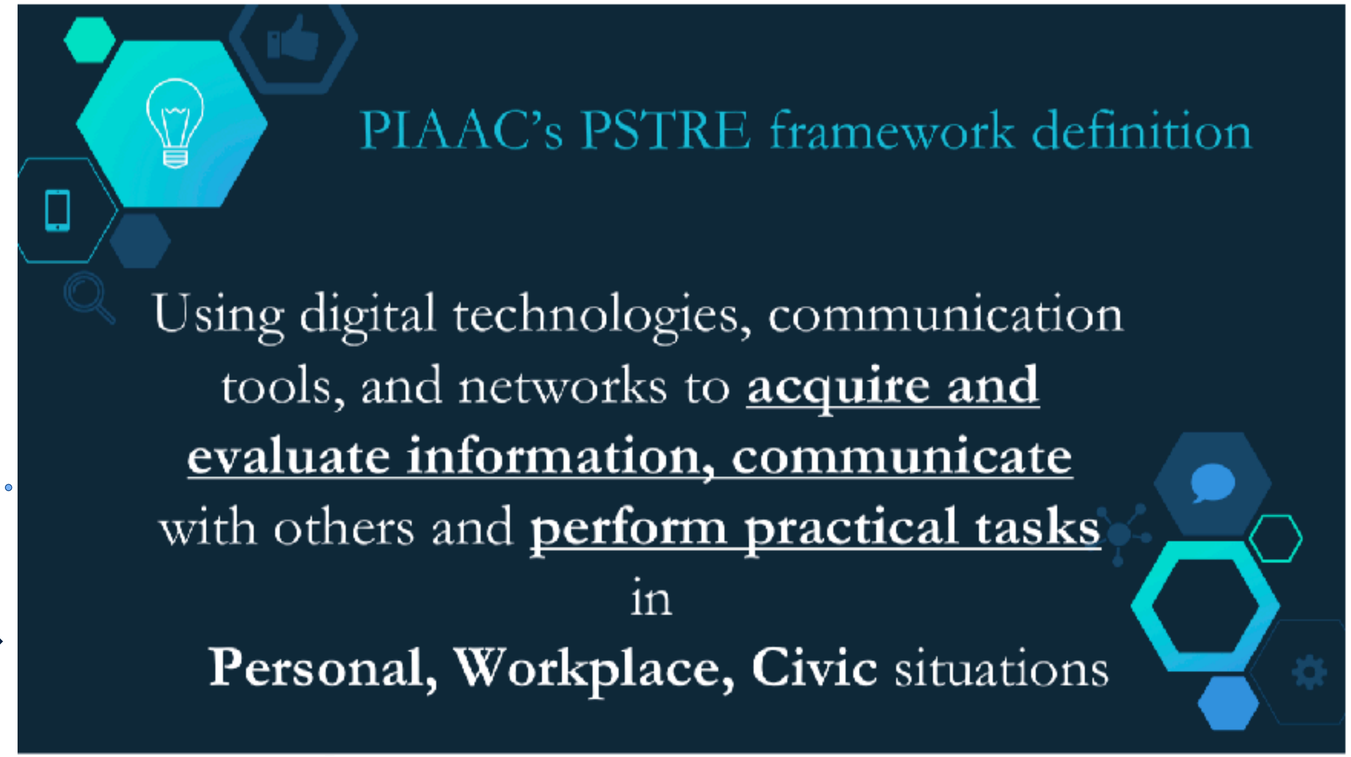
Douglas Rushkoff, Program or be Programmed (2010)

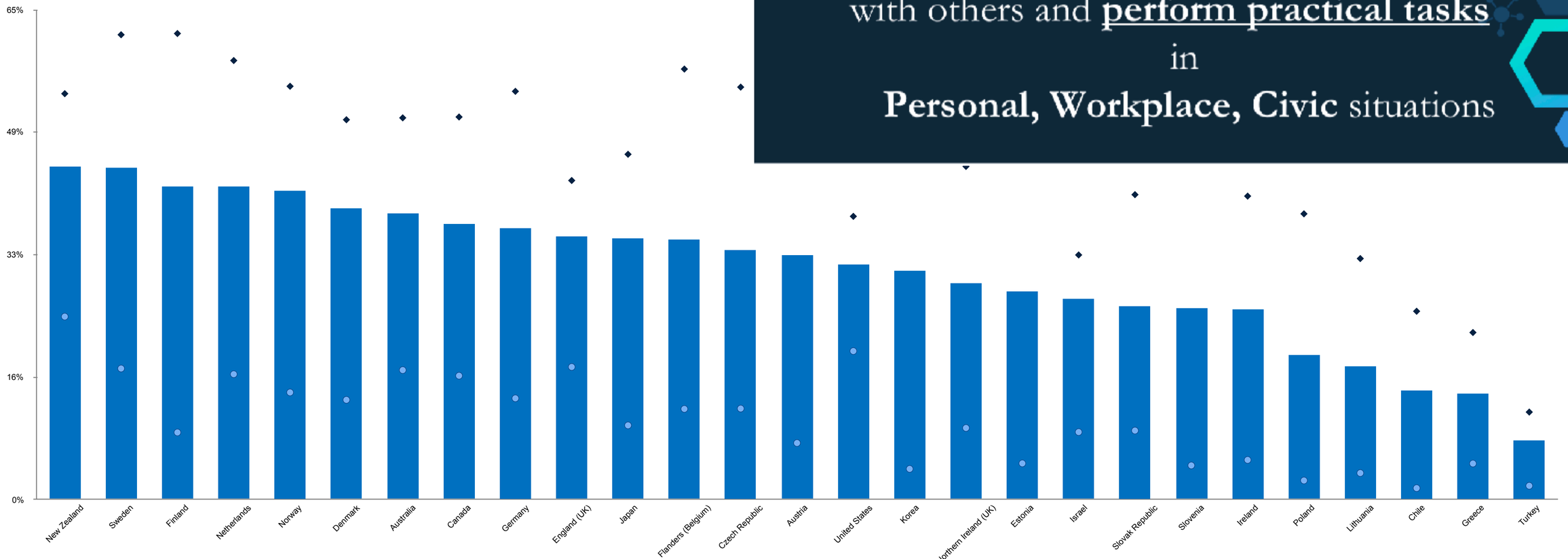
Critical digital: a global agenda

- **A human right** (EU, UNESCO '5 laws')
- **An aspect of citizenship and civic participation** (Council of Europe, schools programmes)
- **A requirement for economic participation** (national digital strategies)

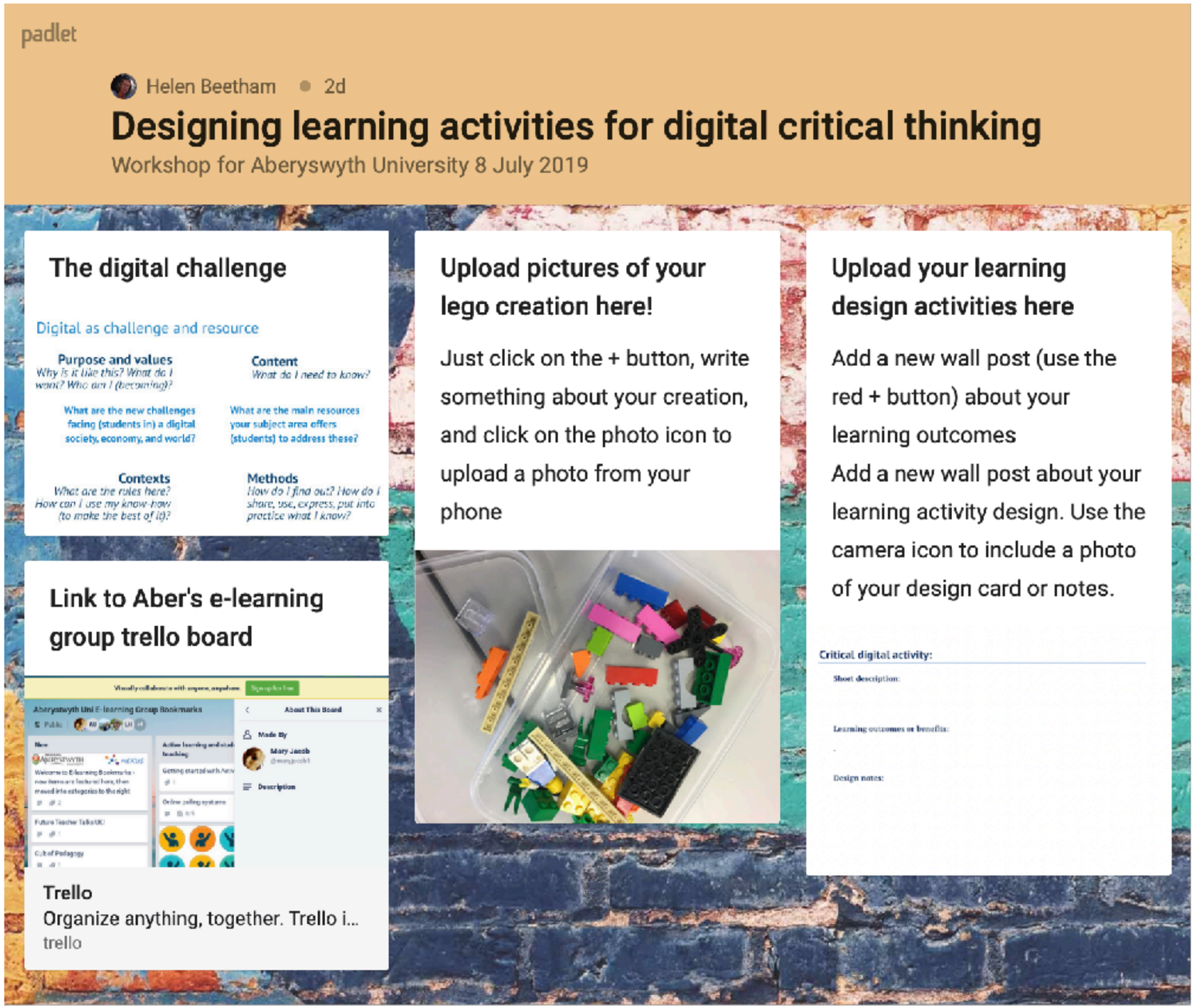
Critical digital: a global measure?

- **An international measure of educational outcomes**
  OECD survey of adult skills (PIAAC):
  % of adults scoring 2 or 3 on PSTRE





Critical digital in the curriculum



- How do we do it?
- What does it look like when it happens?

Talking to learners about their digital experience

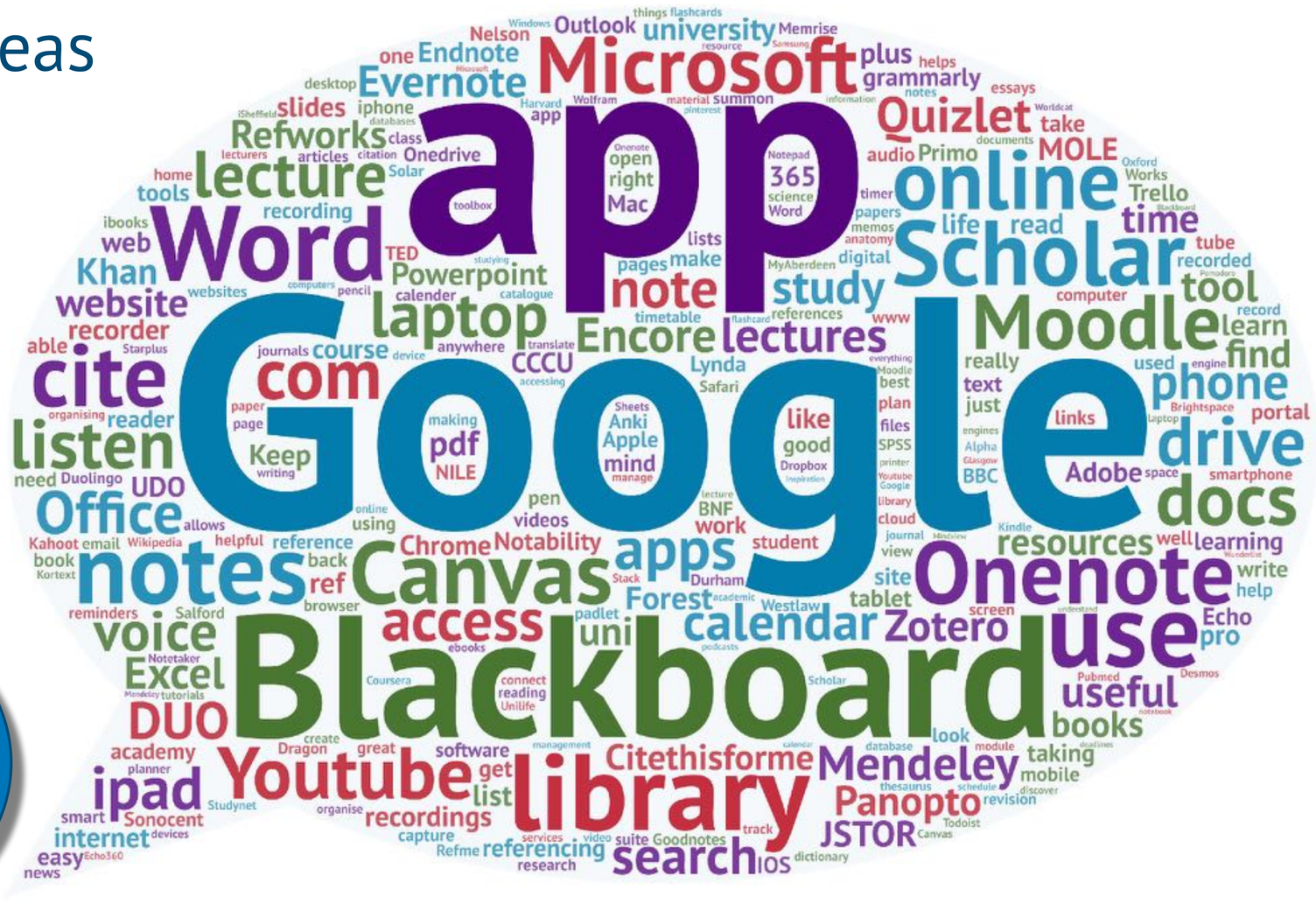
- ‘Insights’ survey developed over three years, funded by Jisc, supported by Aberystwyth
- 2018 UK survey: 37k UK students
- 2019 UK survey: 30k UK students
- 23 core (common) questions under 4 themes
  - You and your digital tech
  - Digital at your university
  - Digital on your course
  - Your attitudes to digital
- 4 free text questions, including: *independent and course based digital activities*, and *improving the experience of digital learning*.

New ways of thinking (critically) with tech

- Finding and recording information
- Making notes, mapping ideas
- Curation and reference management
- Collaborating
- Writing & arguing

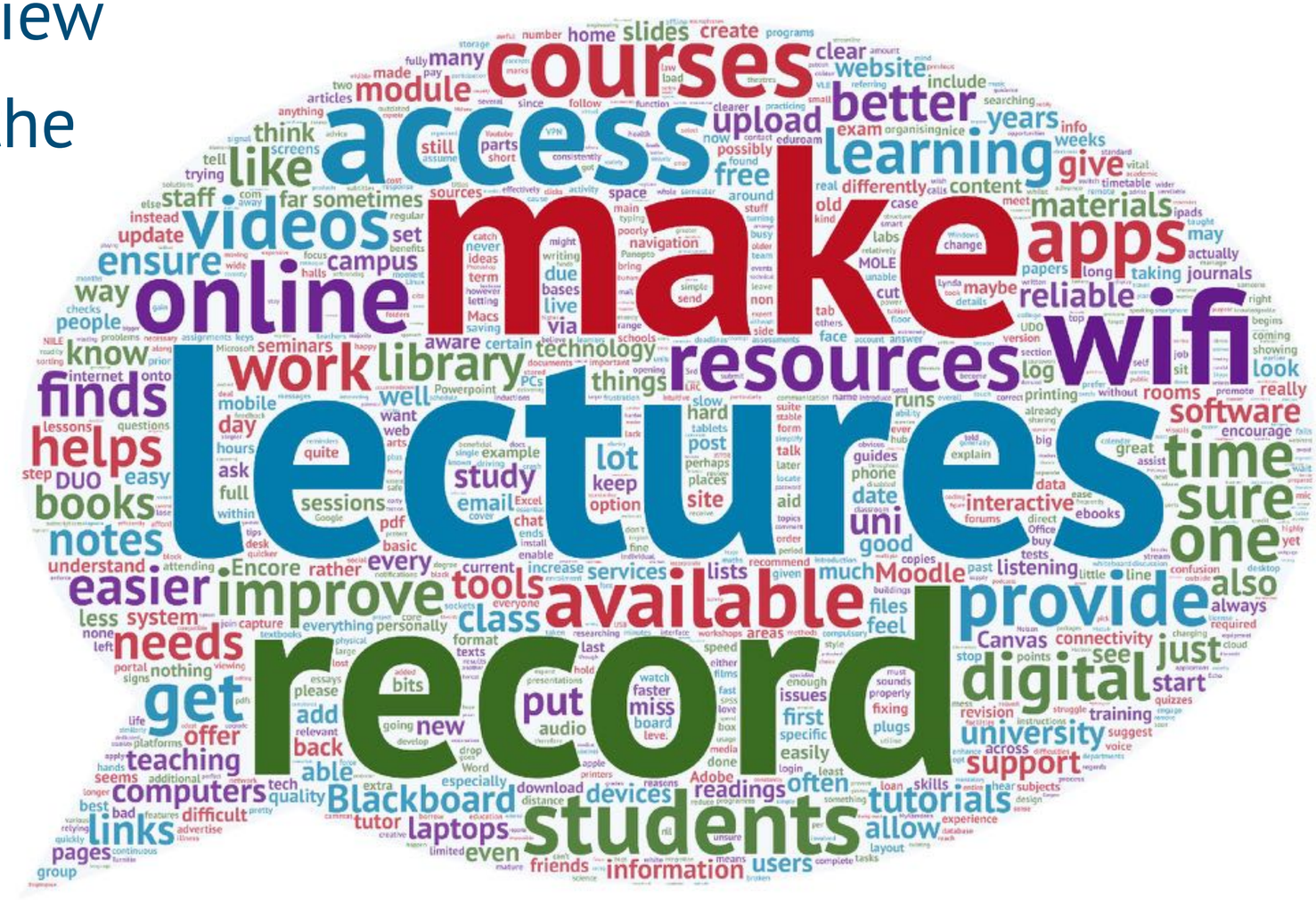
'Writing is a technology that restructures thought.'

Walter Ong (1982) *Orality & Literacy*



New ways of thinking (critically) with tech

- Lecture still central to the student experience
- Digitally augmented: pre-reading, live polling, digital slides, recordings, annotation/review
- Students come to rely on the augmentations

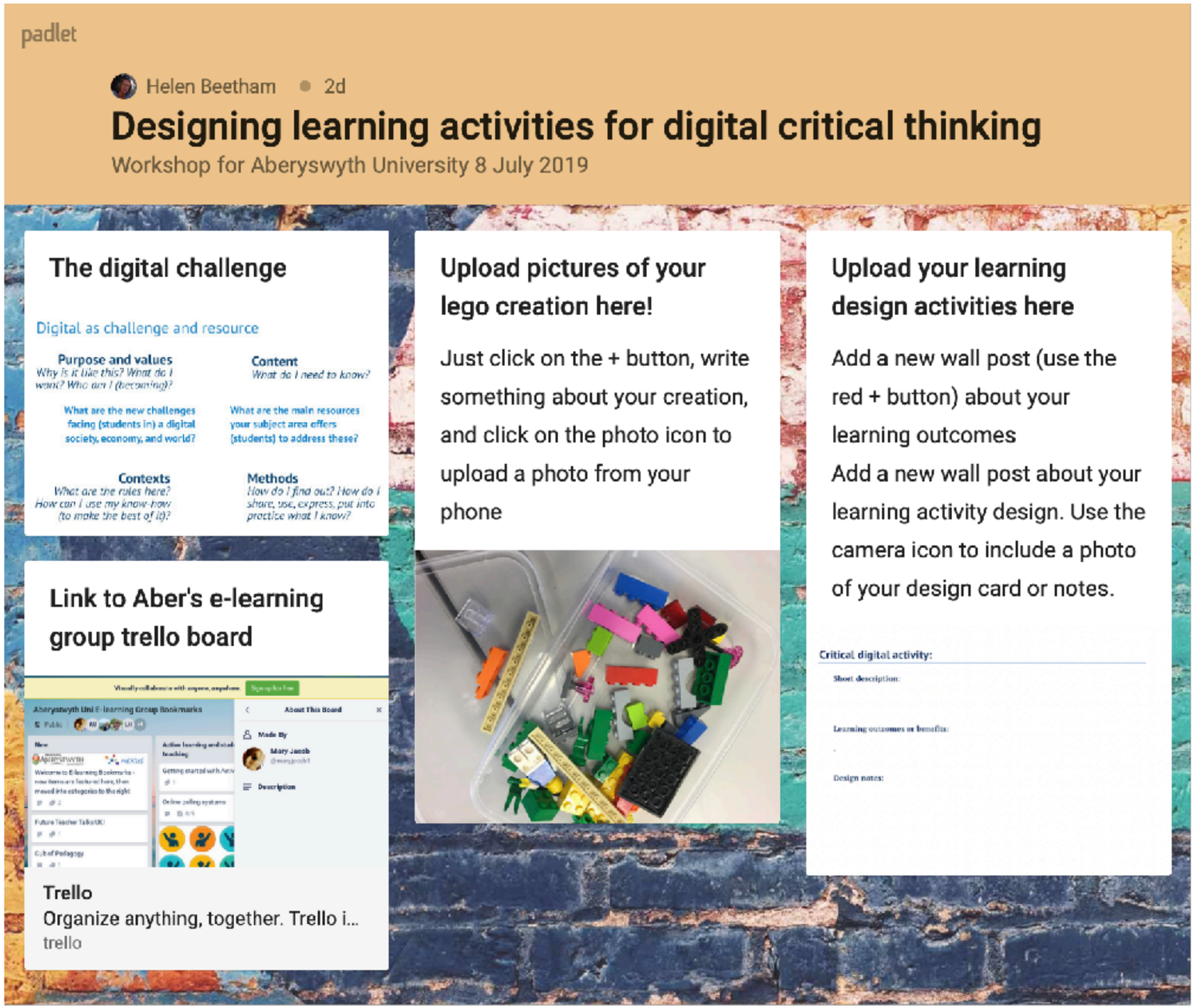


If ways of thinking are changing…

…how are these new challenges and uncertainties addressed **within the curriculum?**

- not as a received solution e.g. ‘digital skills’
- as a scholarly inquiry: How is the subject and its methods, questions, contexts changing?
- What does this subject have to offer in a digital or post-digital world?

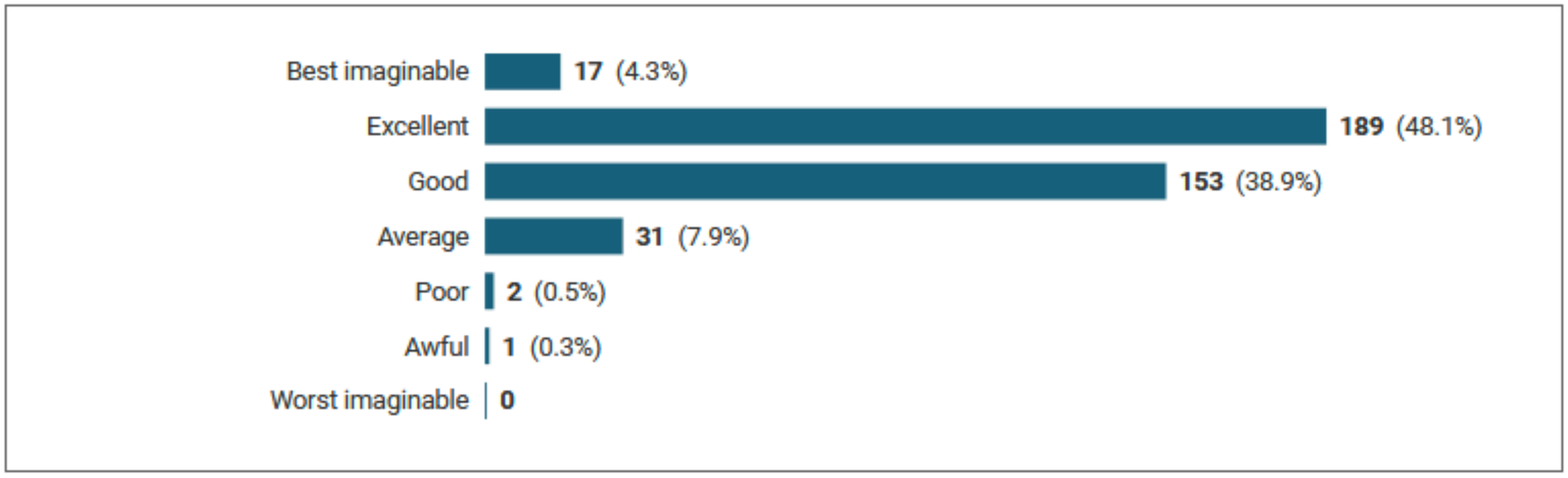
Critical digital in the curriculum



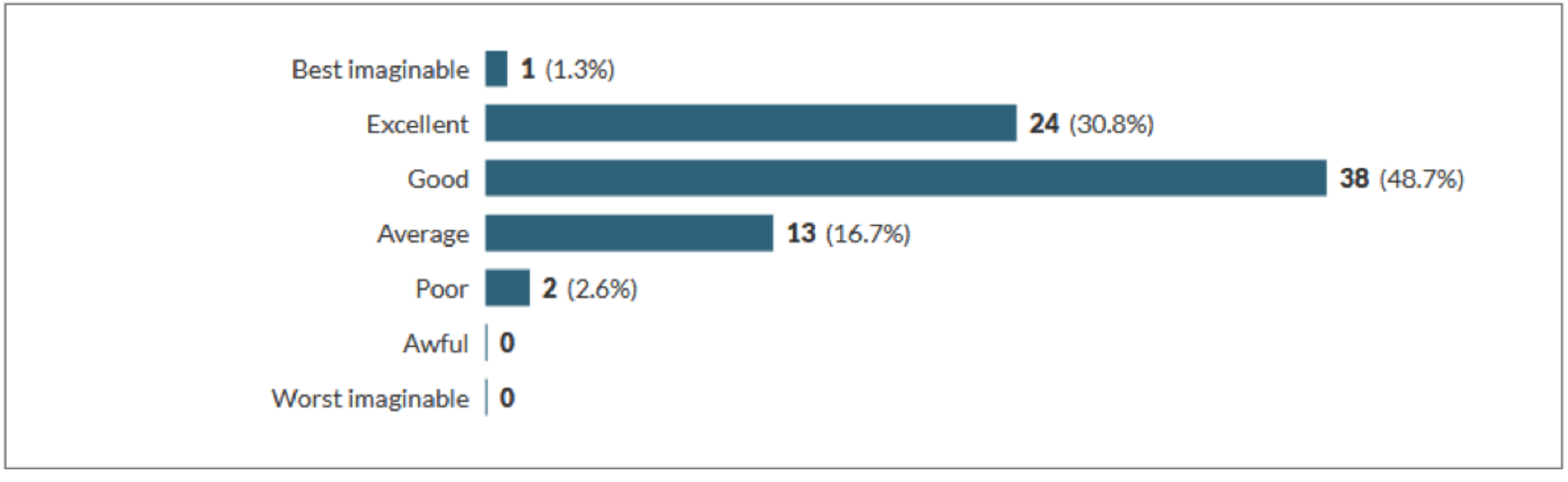
- How do we do it?
- What does it look like when it happens?

Critical digital?

14 Overall, how would you rate the quality of this university's digital provision (software, hardware, learning environment)?



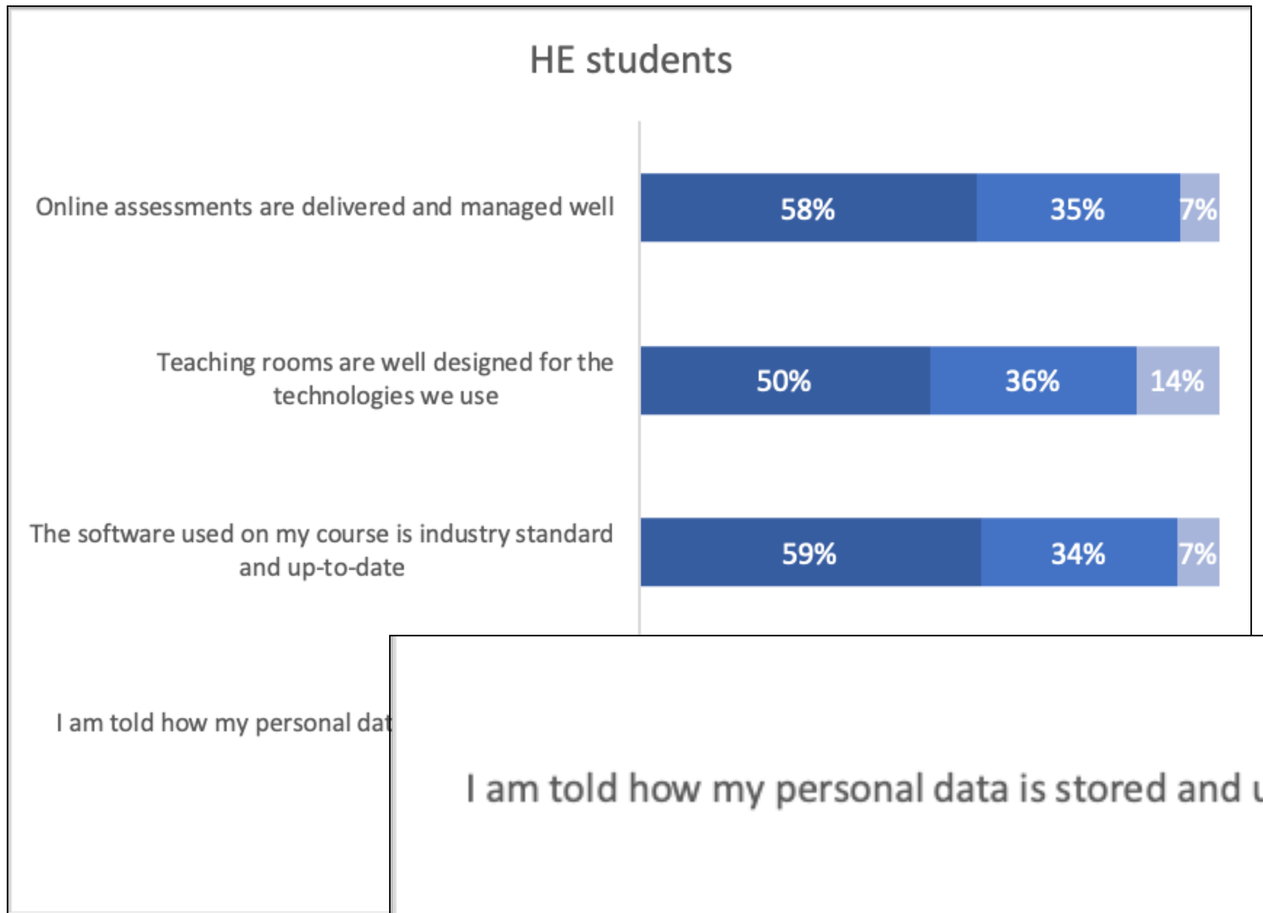
9 Overall, how would you rate the quality of this organisation's digital provision (software, hardware, learning environment)?

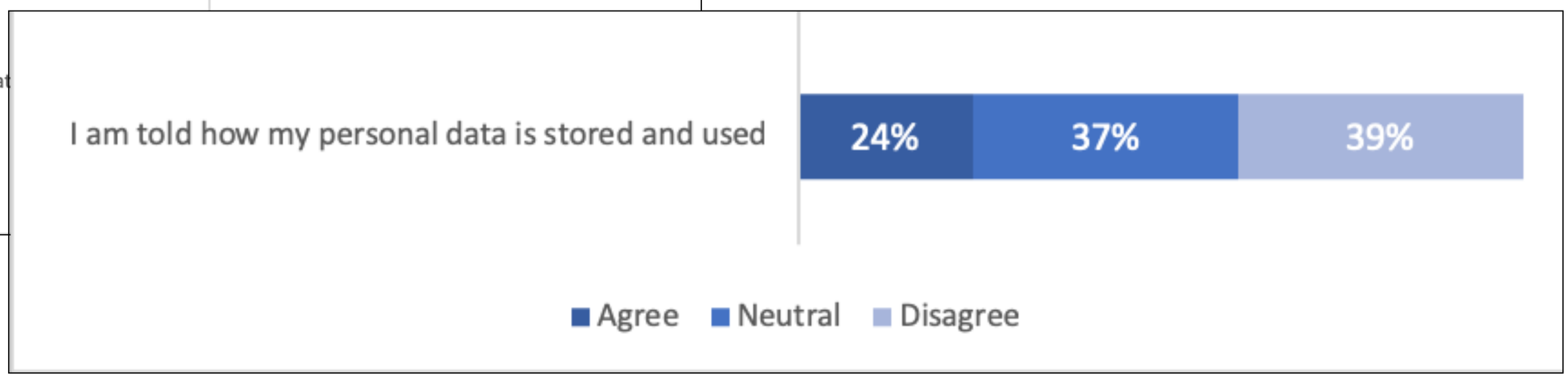


Critical digital?

Mode response on “I am told how my personal data is used”: neutral

Free text comments concerning personal data: 20 comments in 16k

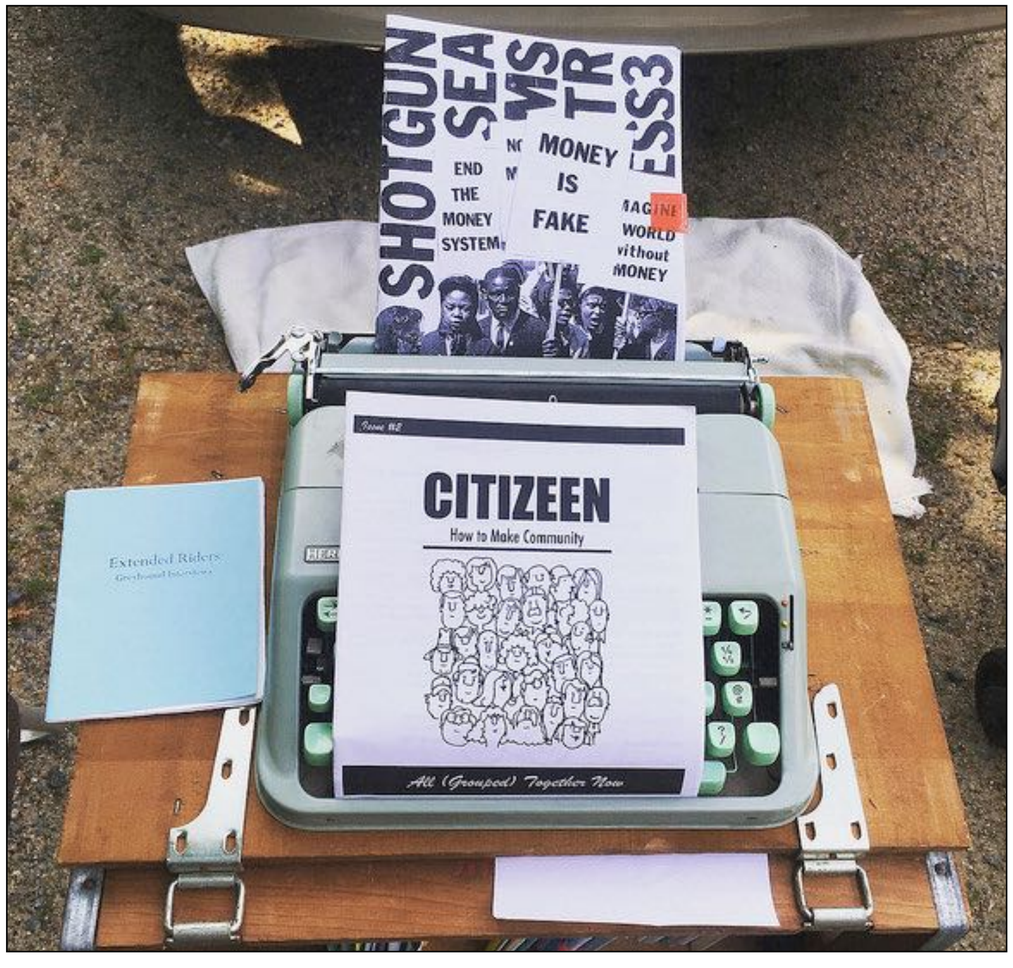




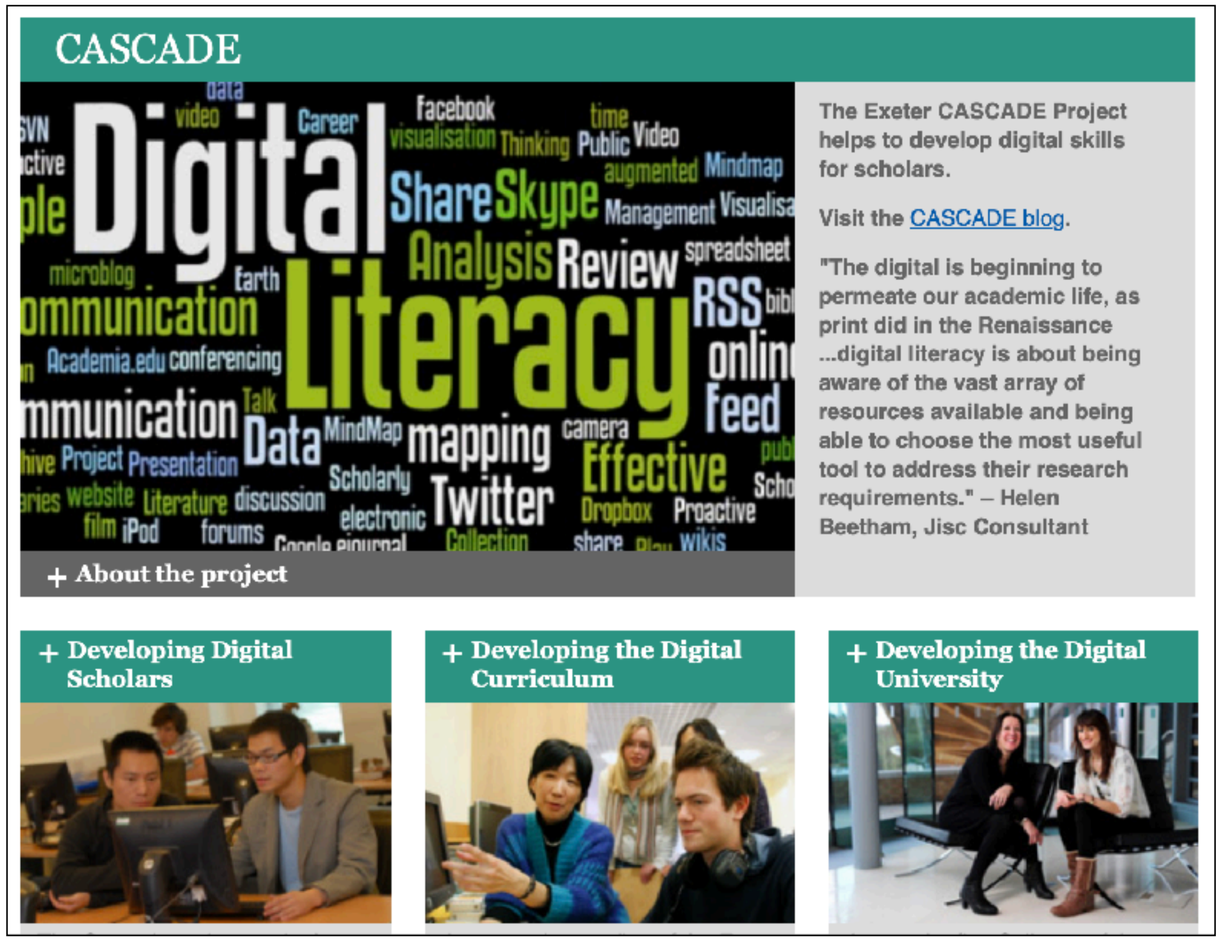
Critical digital (NOT from Aberystwyth!)

- ***‘More face-to-face classes and less dumping information on the LMS.’***
- ***'Don’t let our lecturers use the phrase "blended learning’”as an excuse to leave the room.’***
- ***‘We are paying for interactive classes and teachers to talk to…. online classes are a waste of our money.’***
- ***‘I have seen decreased student participation due to over-reliance on digital tech.'***
- ***‘Stop trying to disguise your cost-cutting, profit-making agenda with platitudes about how wonderful technology is.'***
- ***‘Stop trying to make us link our private social media to your crappy education platform’.***
- ***Crypto currency mining software could also be added to the college website so students get a chance to earn money as they use college services’***

How do learners develop critical resources?



Students as partners for change



Staff/students learning together

#BYOD4L

BYOD4L

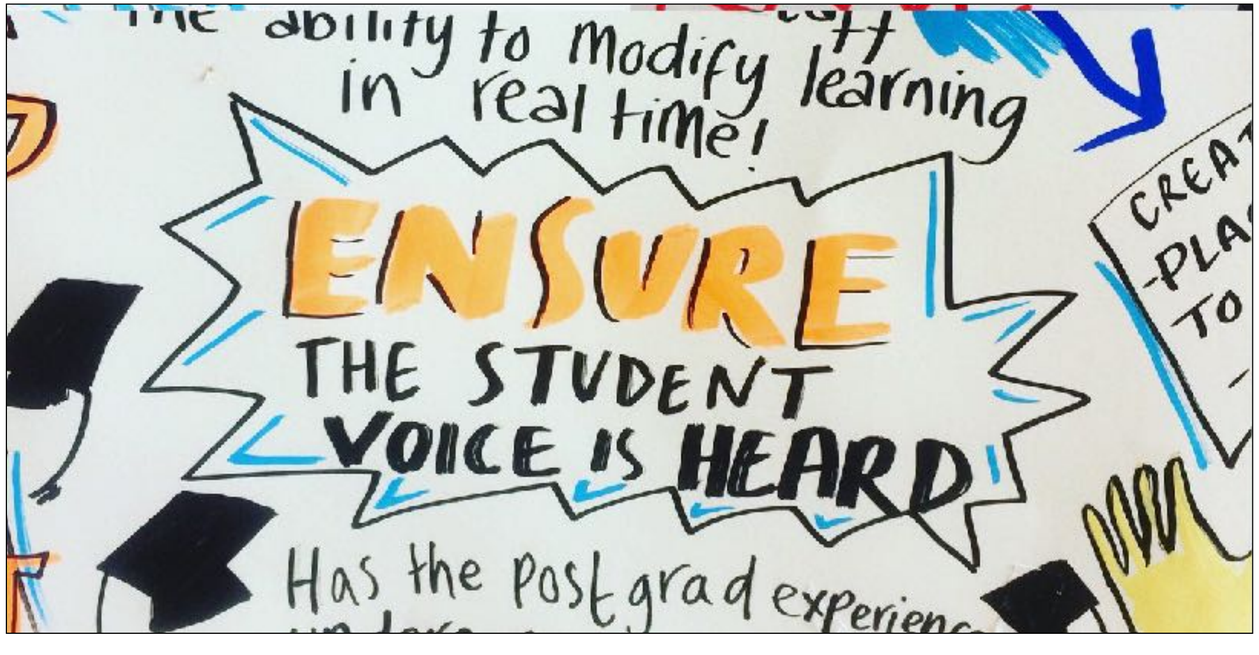
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICES FOR LEARNING: AN OPEN LEARNING EVENT FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS (FACILITATED, STAND-ALONE)

Search search

#BYOD4L #BYOD4LCHAT #BYOD4LHELP

https://byod4learning.wordpress.com/topics/

Students as co-researchers



Authentic projects or open data

Data-driven learning and teaching

UK Data Service

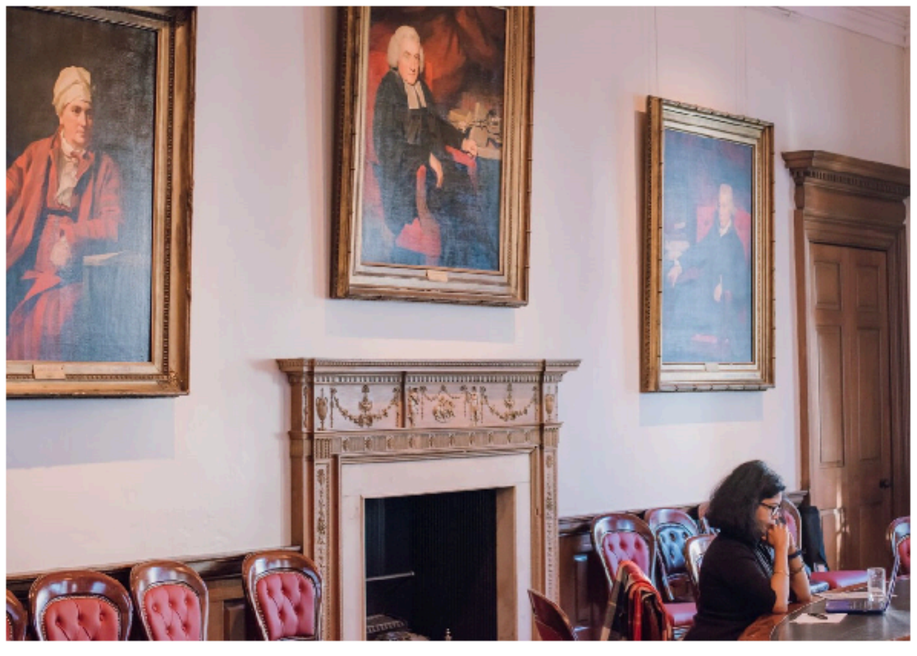
Public knowledge production

wikipedia, wikimedia, youtube, slideshare…

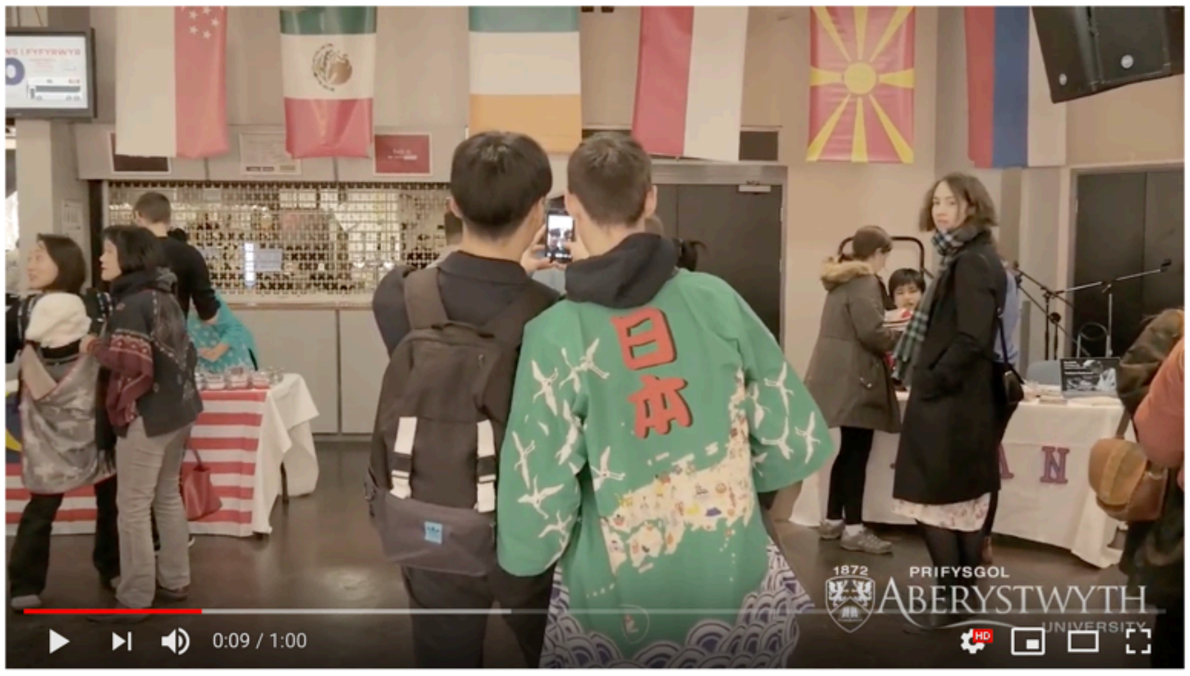
Wikimedian in Residence

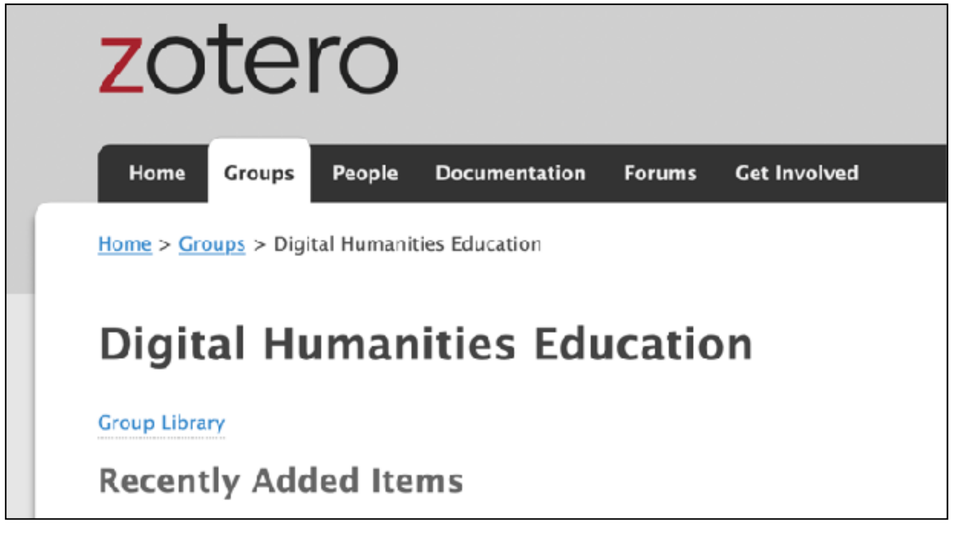
JUST ANOTHER THINKING.IS.ED.AC.UK SITE

JANUARY 24, 2019

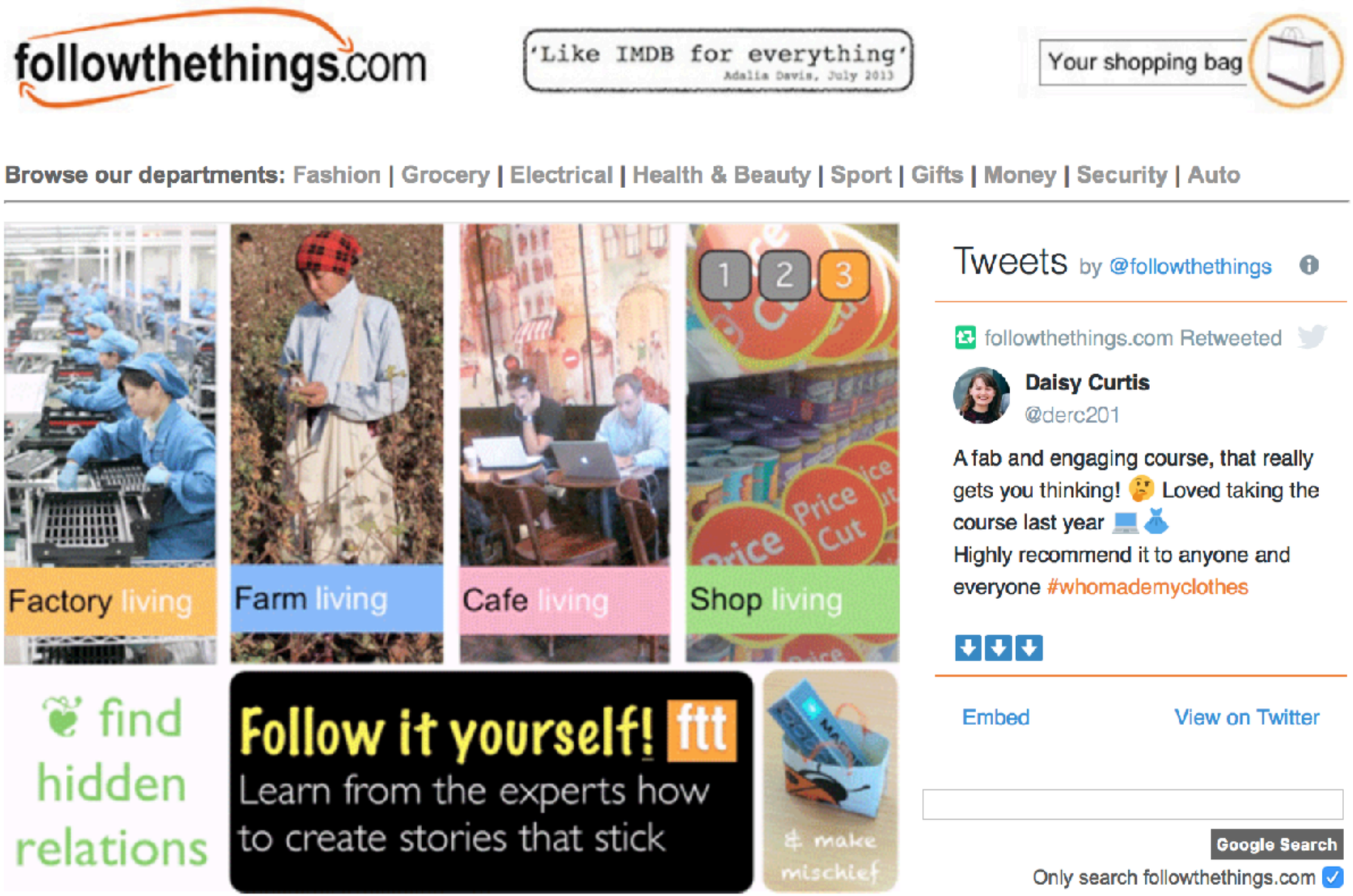


You can't be what you can't see.





Critical thinking about technology: in public



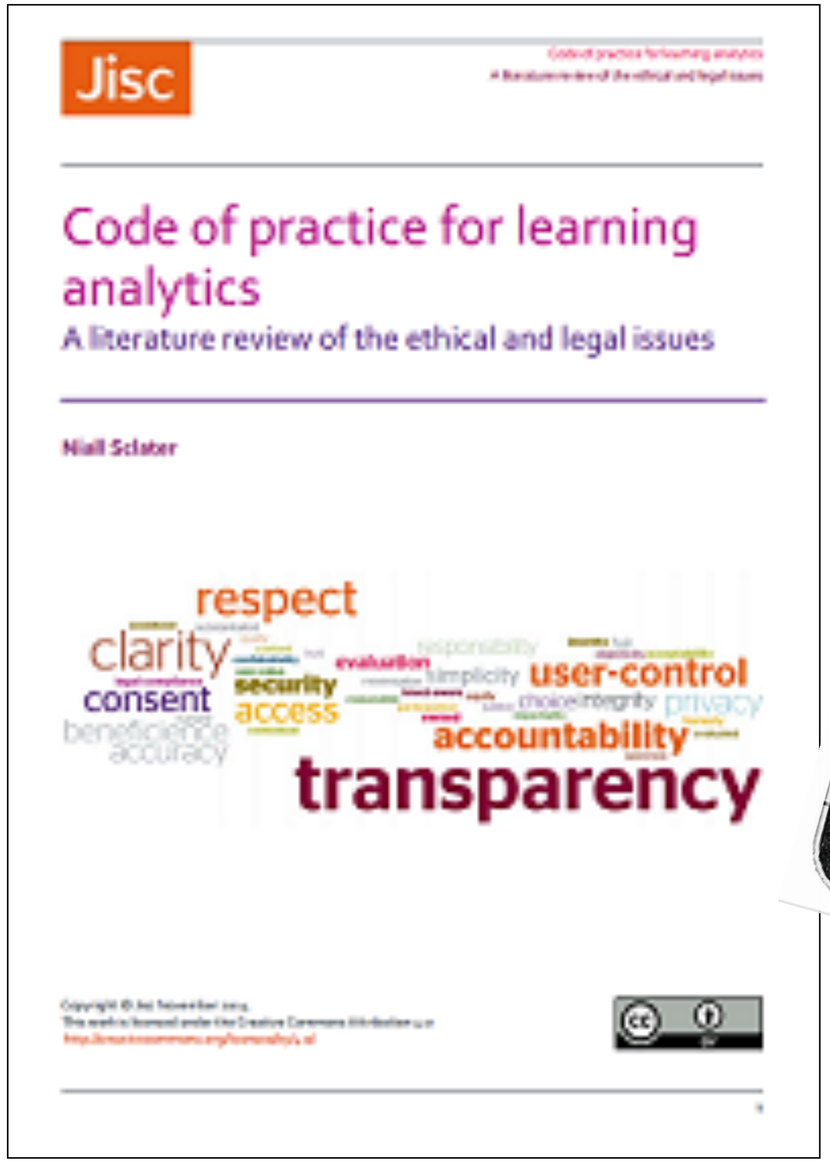
www.followthethings.com

Critical and open pedagogies

#phonarnation phonarnation.org

CC phonarnation 2015

Critical makers: hackathons and code bashes

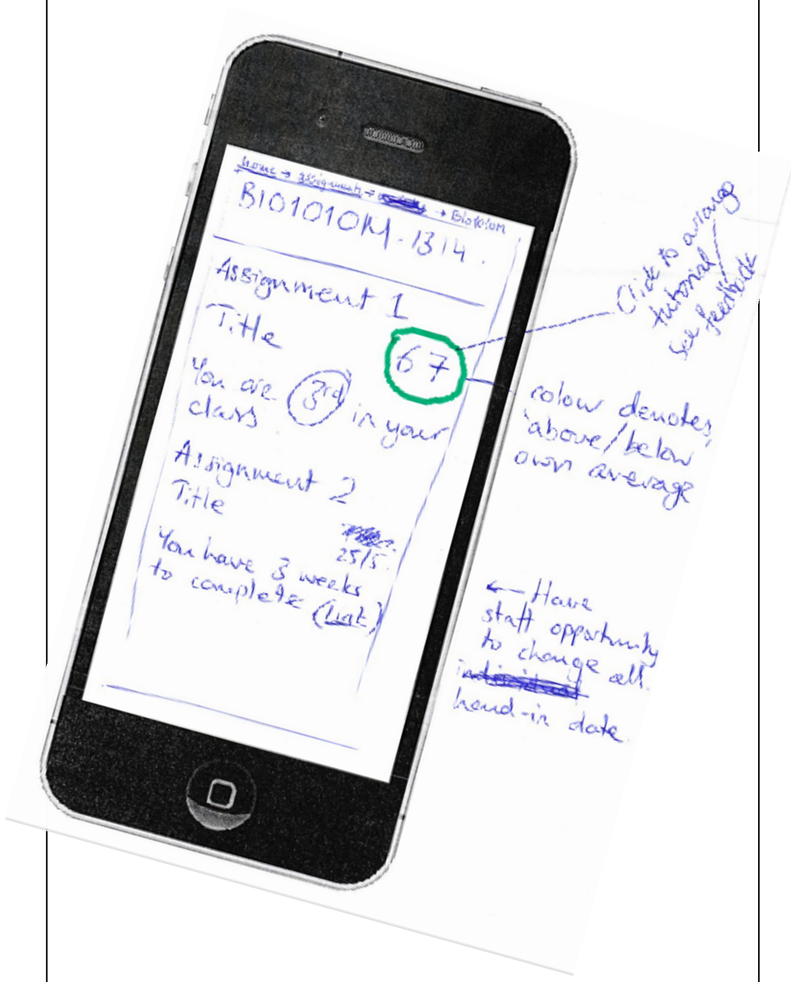

Jisc

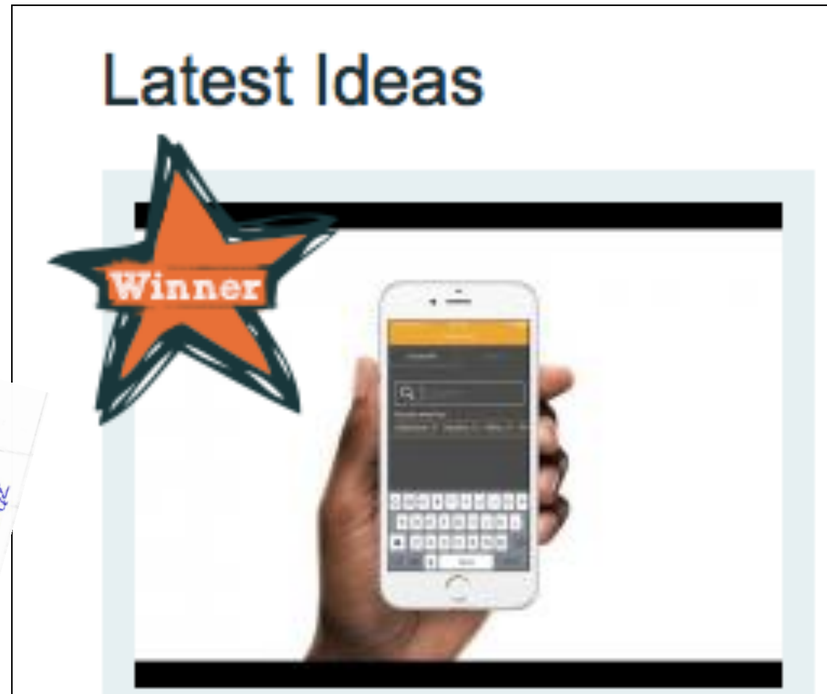
Code of practice for learning analytics

A literature review of the ethical and legal issues

Niall Sclater

respect
clarity
consent
security
access
evaluation
simplicity
user-control
privacy
beneficence
accuracy
accountability
transparency





Searchable

A smartphone application designed to help students locate available computers based on their software requirements.

1 year ago • 119 votes

‘digitally aware’ ‘actively engaged’ ‘critical thinkers’

We live in a time that demands a discourse of both critique and possibility, one that recognizes that without an informed citizenry, collective struggle, and viable social movements, democracy will slip out of our reach

Henry Giroux (2011)

Zombie Politics and Culture in the Age of Casino Capitalism

Reflections and contributions