

# Learning for Uncertain Times

Prifysgol Aberystwyth University









Monday 8 July 2019



**@helenbeetham**

**[bit.ly/AberLT19KN](https://bit.ly/AberLT19KN)**

# Uncertain times

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

# Uncertain times



**What are the biggest uncertainties facing your students?**

**[menti.com](https://www.menti.com)**

**CODE 17 13 81**

# Uncertain times

[bit.ly/AberLT19KN](http://bit.ly/AberLT19KN)

[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

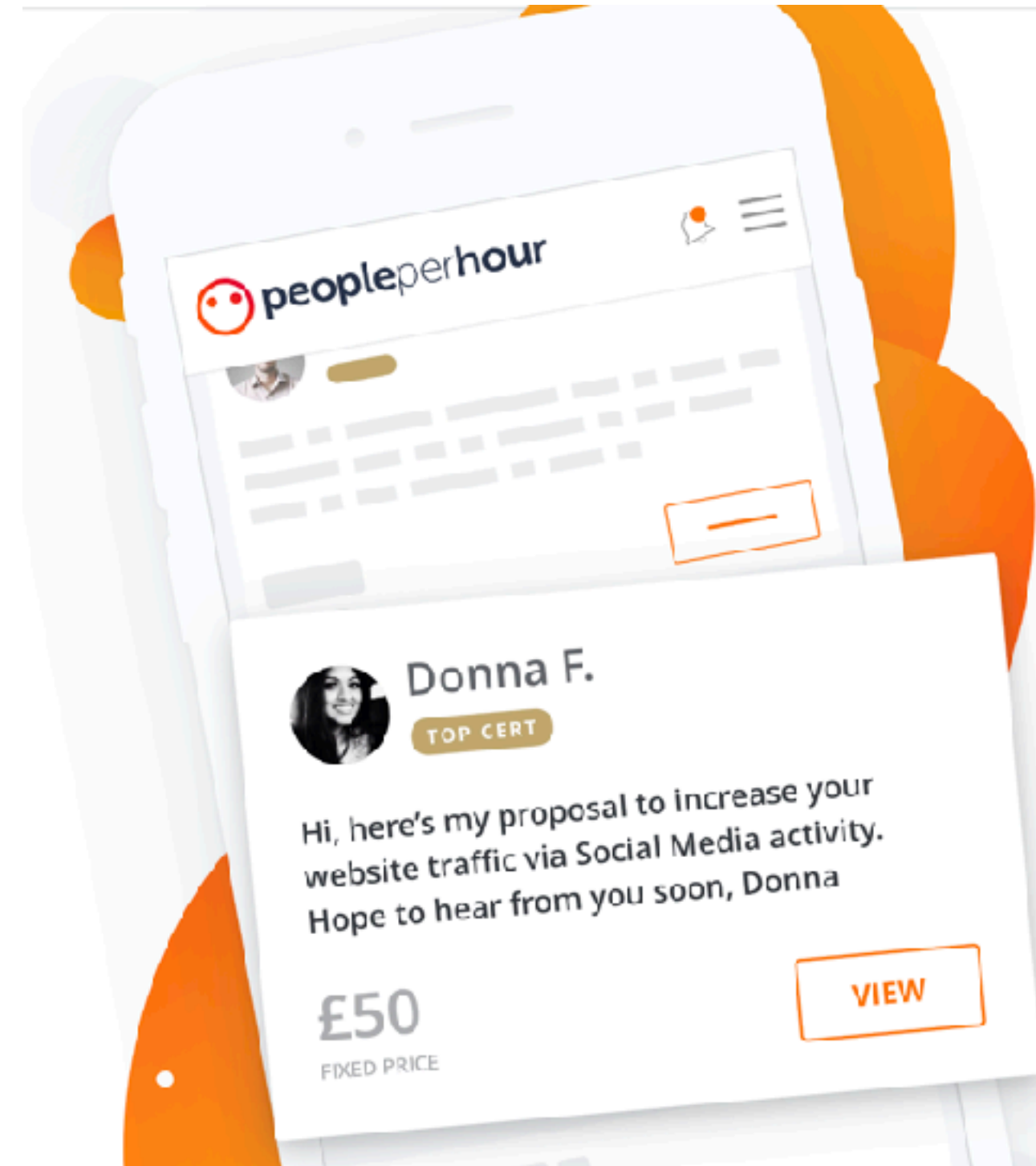
Follow soon!

# 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

amazon mechanical turk

Get Started with Amazon Mechanical Turk

**Create Tasks**  
Human intelligence through an API. Access a global, on-demand, 24/7 workforce.  
[Create a Requester account](#)

or

**Make Money**  
Make money in your spare time. Get paid for completing simple tasks.  
[Create a Worker account](#)

# 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](http://advice.milkround.com)

# Social uncertainties

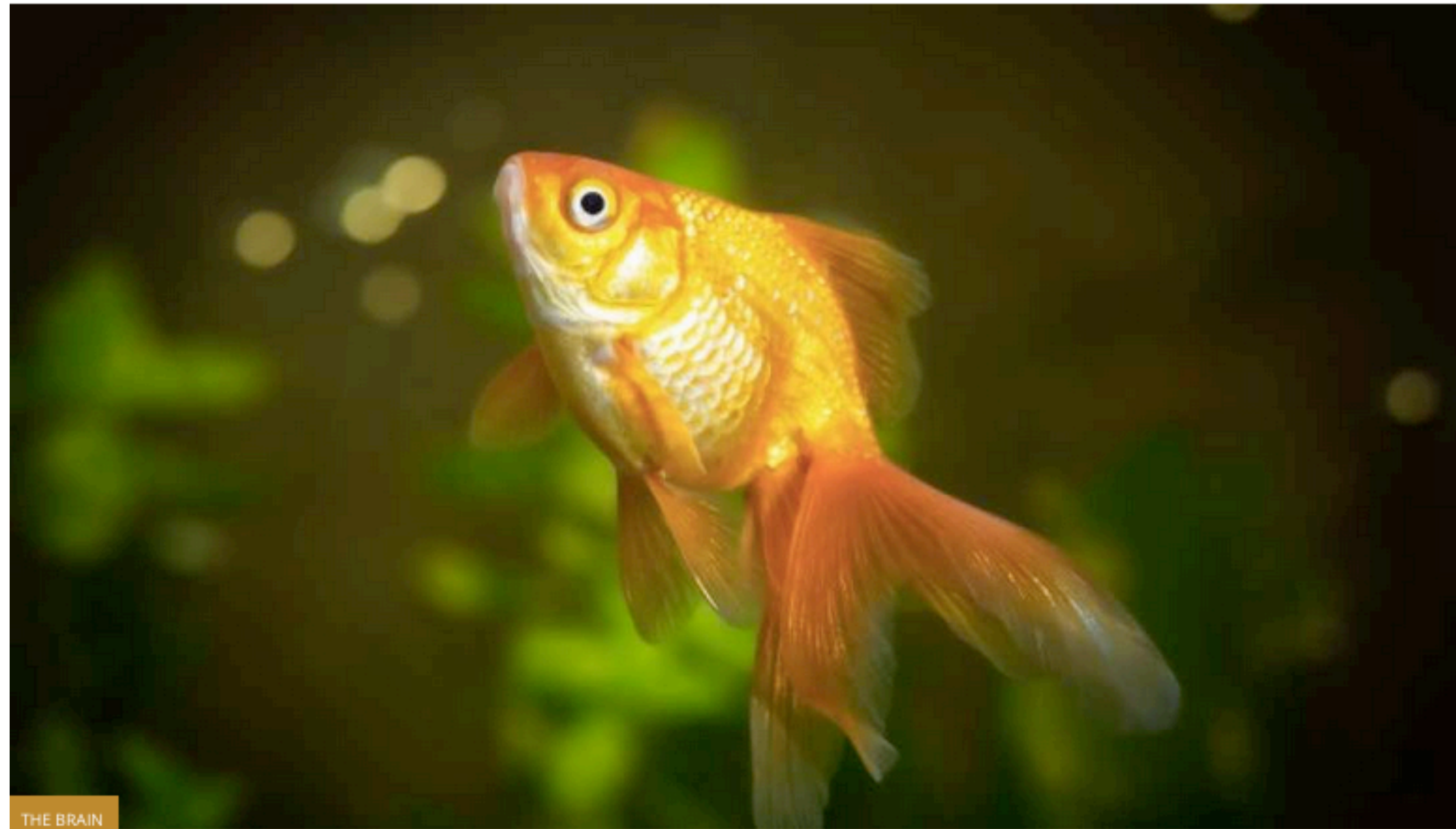
- ▶ Texture of our (inter) personal lives
- ▶ Surveillance society
- ▶ New compulsions
- ▶ Data as identity: the cyborg self

Do You Have A Lower Attention Span Than A Goldfish?

13.7K  
SHARES

Share on Facebook

Share on Twitter





# 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



Carole Cadwalladr | TED2019

## Facebook's role in Brexit — and the threat to democracy

Share  
Add to list  
Like  
Recommend

15:08



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



## HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



### CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



### READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



### CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



### SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



### CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



### IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



### CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



### ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

# Environmental uncertainties



 **XR Aberystwyth** @AberystwythXr · Jun 8  
Ymunwch am 12 ger y bandstand i dechrau ei'n gorymdaeth ar hyd strydoedd Aber

Meet at 12 next to the bandstand for the start of our march through the town centre

[#EndNotSuspend](#) [#StopSeismicTesting](#) [#WorldOceansDay](#)

**STOP SEISMIC TESTING**  
KEEP FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND  
**WORLD OCEANS DAY**  
SATURDAY 8th JUNE  
ABERYSTWYTH PROM

**ATAL PROFION SEISMIG**  
CADWCH DANWYDD FFOFIL YN Y DDAEAR  
DIWRNOD CEFNFOROEDD Y BYD  
DYDD SADWRN 8fed MEHEFIN  
PROMENAD ABERYSTWYTH

**XR ACTIVITIES (ALL WELCOMES):**  
12oos MARCH TO STOP SEISMIC TESTING IN CARDIGAN BAY  
Assembly Bandstand at 12  
1pm MARCH / FLOTILLA CONVERGE (Bandstand)  
CHALK THE PROM (XR FAMILIES)  
Bring bats and chalk. Chalk a message for the planet.  
BEACH CLEAN with Gwelw y Glawau Aberystwyth

**Gwahlgobaeth Gwrthryfel Ddioliant:**  
12 Gorymdaith i atal profion seismig yn Moe Coredigion  
\*Mgysau: Bandstand 12 corol dylu  
1pm Gorymdaith a llyngos yn cydgyfeirio  
Steddi bard  
Silec y Prom – bandstand (Caeleddi: 8)  
Dwch 3 phont o silc: Goleud neges i'r llerod  
Glaukaf'r trath, gyda Gwerin y Clawau Aberystwyth  
ac I usheru i'n helu, cwreria offar nosol: sbectol Gredston!

   3 

‘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](https://www.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 Postman, 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)

The infographic is divided into two main sections. The left section, titled 'The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens', features a blue background with a hand pointing to a cluster of colorful icons representing various digital skills and concepts. The right section, titled 'FIVE LAWS OF MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY (MIL)', lists five laws with corresponding icons and text. The top right corner of the infographic includes the UNESCO logo and the text 'United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization'. The bottom right corner of the infographic includes the text 'Alton Grizzle and Jagtar Singh'.

**European Commission**

**The European Digital Competence Framework for Citizens**

**FIVE LAWS OF MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY (MIL)**

**LAW 3**  
Information, knowledge, and messages are not always value neutral, or always independent of biases. Any conceptualization, use and application of MIL should make this truth transparent and understandable to all citizens.

**LAW 4**  
Every citizen wants to know and understand new information, knowledge and messages as well as to communicate, even if she/he is not aware, admits or expresses that he/she does. Her/his rights must however never be compromised.

**LAW 5**  
Media and information literacy is not acquired at once. It is a lived and dynamic experience and process. It is complete when it includes knowledge, skills and attitudes, when it covers access, evaluation/assessment, use, production and communication of information, media and technology content.

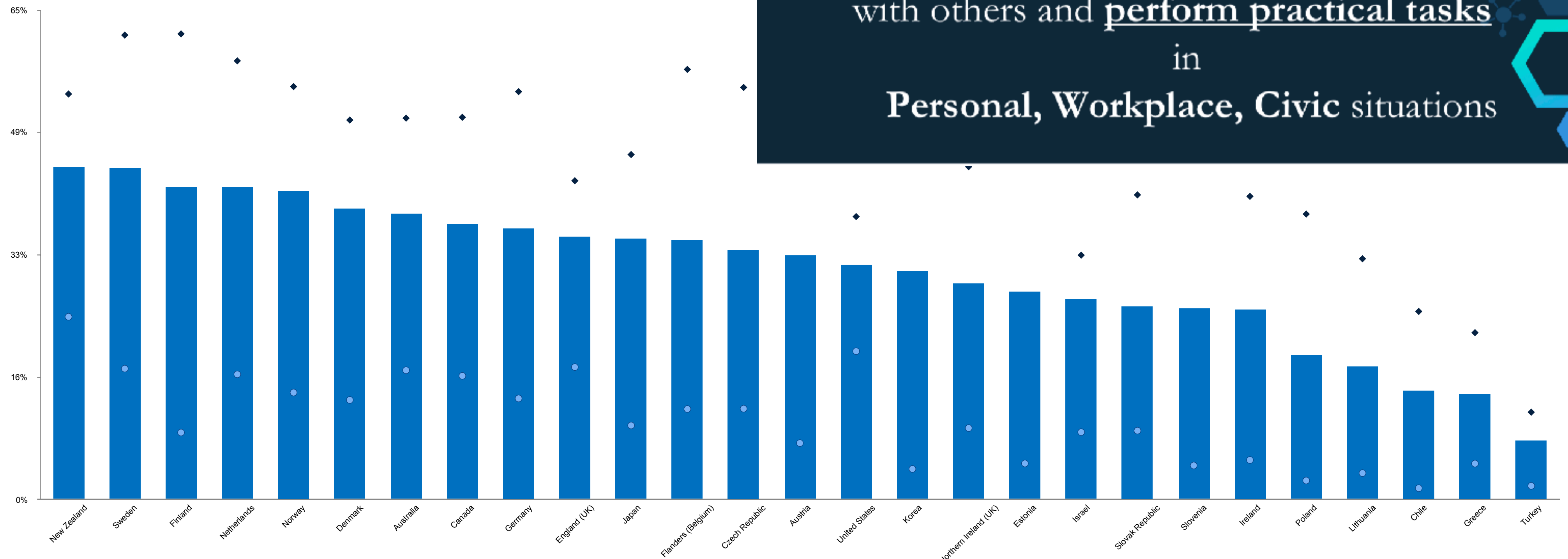
**United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

**Social Europe**

Alton Grizzle and Jagtar Singh

# 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



PIAAC's PSTRE framework definition

Using digital technologies, communication tools, and networks to acquire and evaluate information, communicate with others and perform practical tasks in **Personal, Workplace, Civic** situations

# Critical digital in the curriculum

padlet

Helen Beetham • 2d

## Designing learning activities for digital critical thinking

Workshop for Aberyswyth University 8 July 2019


### The digital challenge

Digital as challenge and resource

<b>Purpose and values</b> <i>Why is it like this? What do I want? Who am I (becoming)?</i>	<b>Content</b> <i>What do I need to know?</i>
<b>What are the new challenges facing (students in) a digital society, economy, and world?</b>	<b>What are the main resources your subject area offers (students) to address these?</b>
<b>Contexts</b> <i>What are the rules here? How can I use my know-how (to make the best of it)?</i>	<b>Methods</b> <i>How do I find out? How do I share, use, express, put into practice what I know?</i>

### Upload pictures of your lego creation here!

Just click on the + button, write something about your creation, and click on the photo icon to upload a photo from your phone

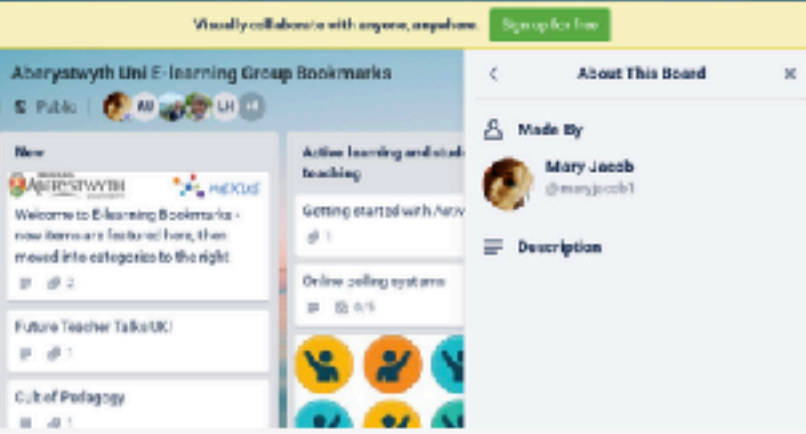


### Upload your learning design activities here

Add a new wall post (use the red + button) about your learning outcomes

Add a new wall post about your learning activity design. Use the camera icon to include a photo of your design card or notes.

### Link to Aber's e-learning group trello board



**Trello**  
Organize anything, together. Trello i...  
trello

**Critical digital activity:**

Short description:

Learning outcomes or benefits:

Design notes:

- ▶ 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*.







# 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?



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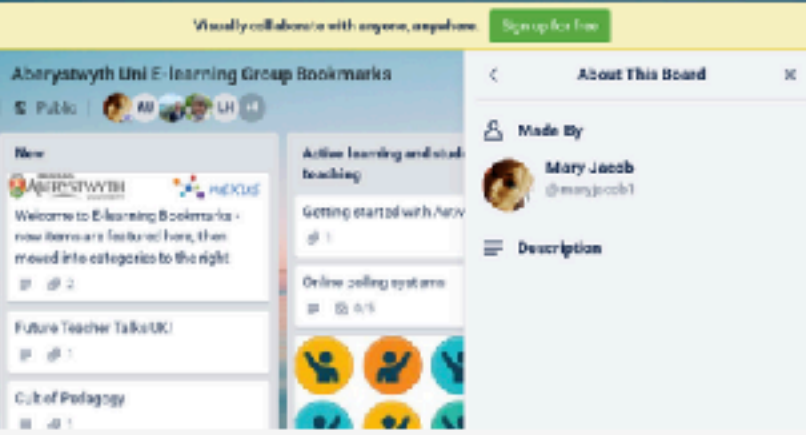


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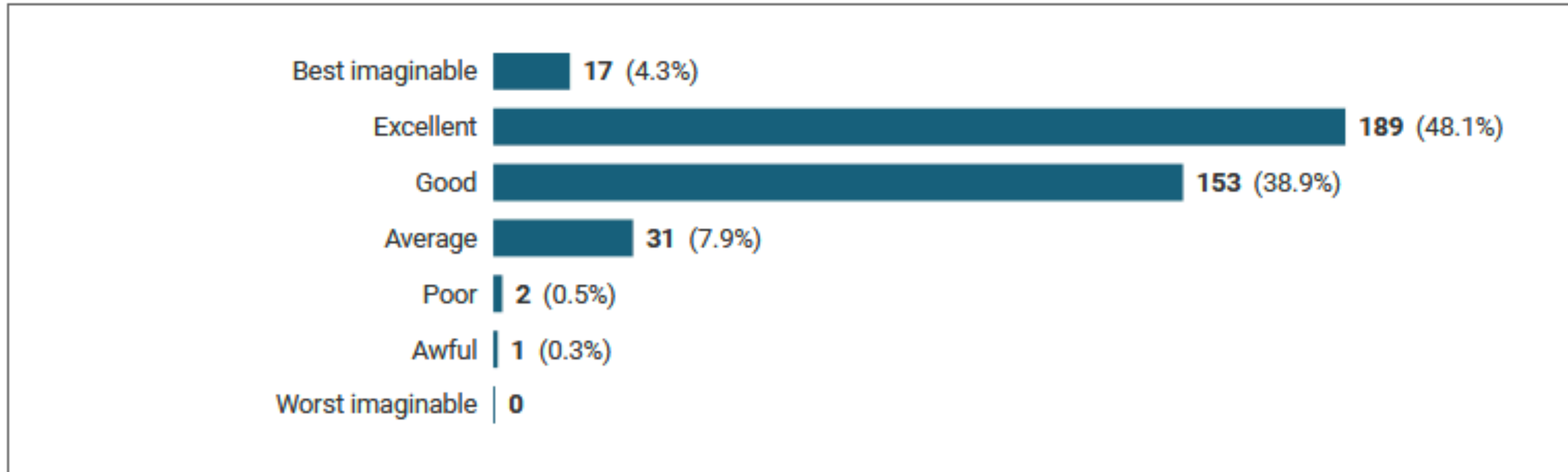
Learning outcomes or benefits:

Design notes:

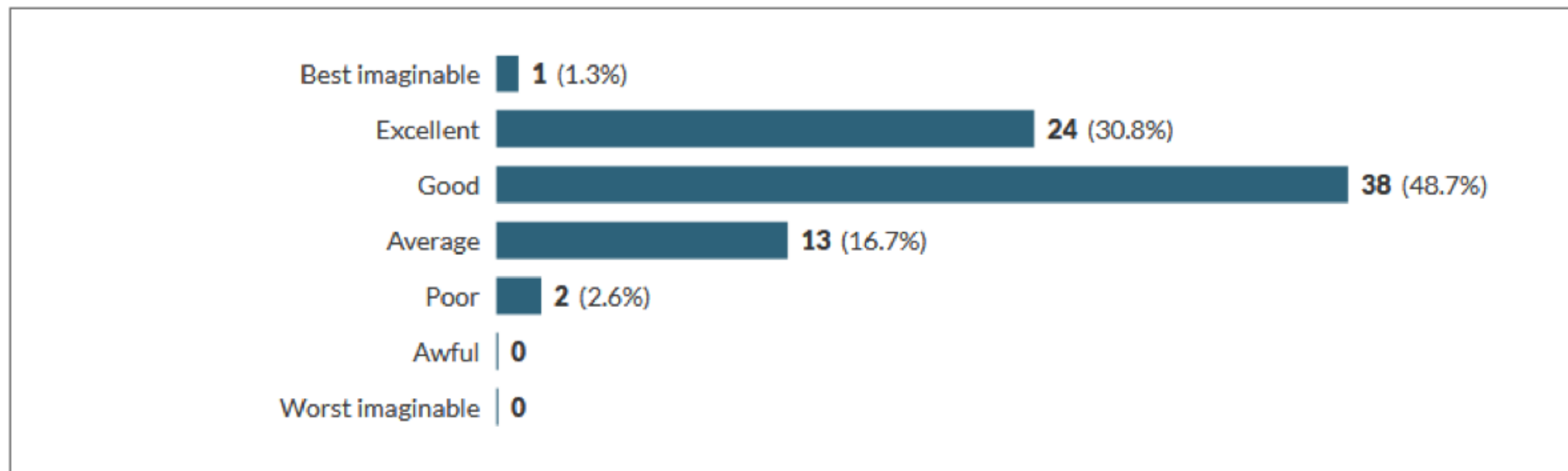
- ▶ How do we do it?
- ▶ What does it look like when it happens?

# Critical digital?

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

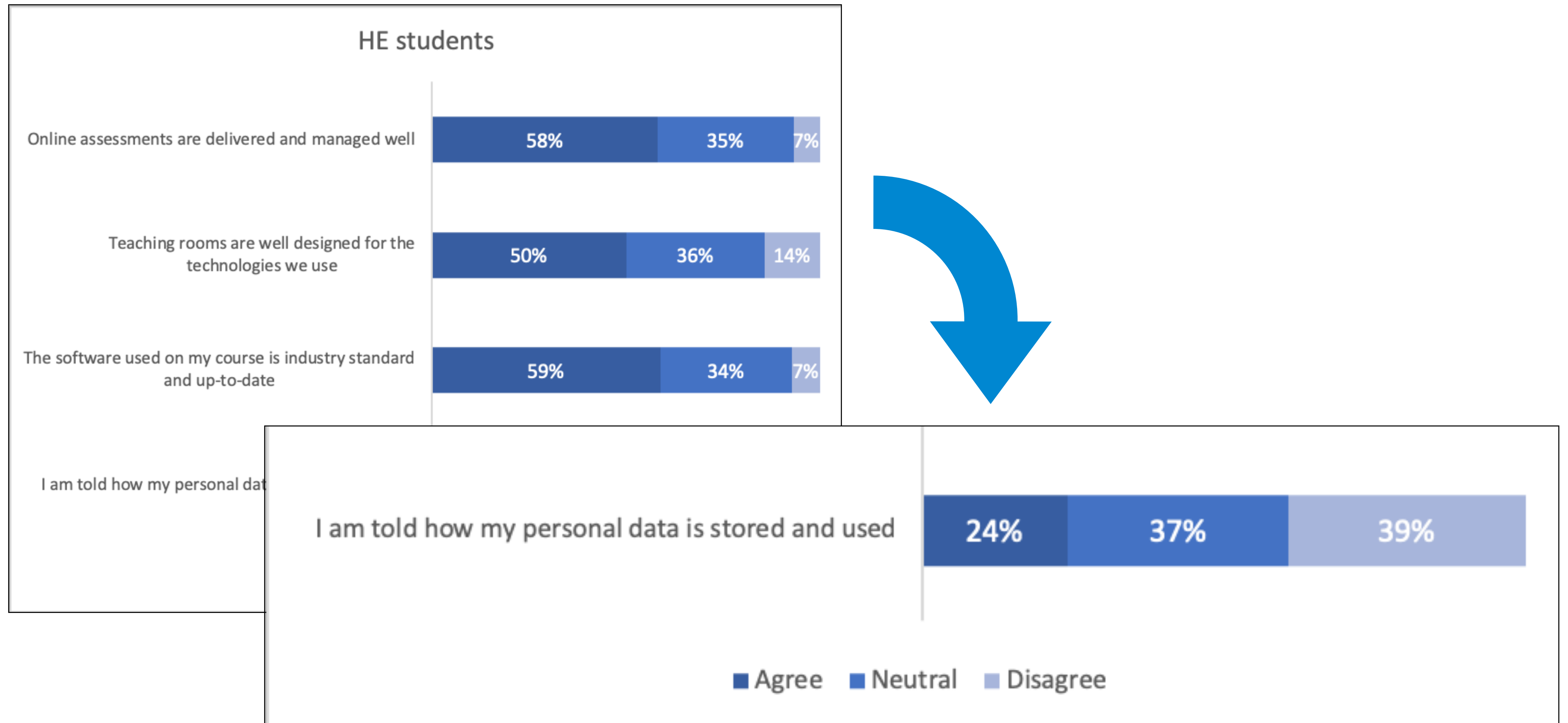


9 Overall, how would you rate the quality of this organisation's digital provision (software, hardware, learning environment)?



# 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**

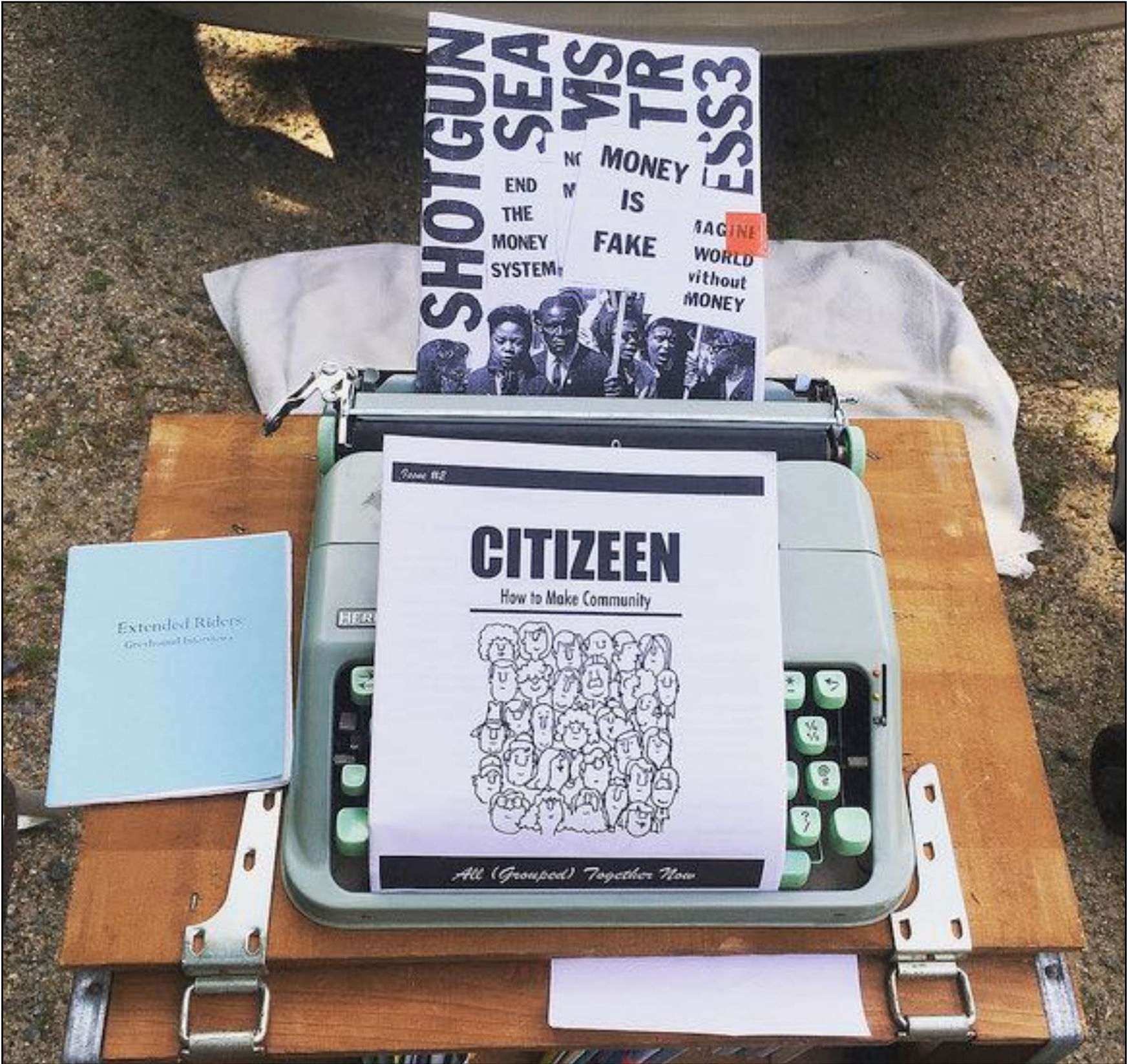


# Critical digital (NOT from Aberystwyth!)

- ▶ *‘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?

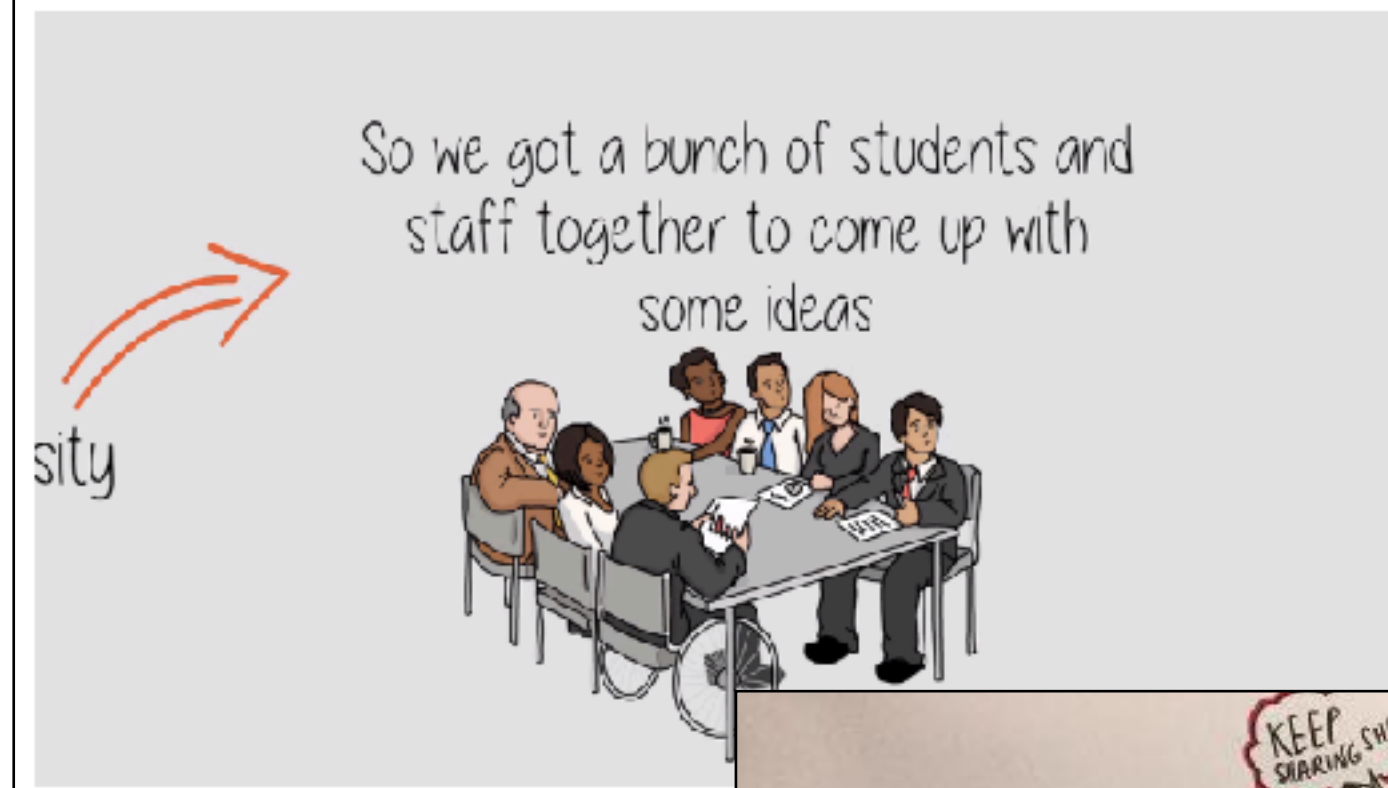


# Students as partners for change

## JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION, PARTNERSHIP AND CHANGE

HOME ABOUT LOGIN REGISTER SEARCH CURRENT ARCHIVES ANNOUNCEMENTS SUBMISSIONS

Home > Vol 3, No 2 (2017) > Becker



### CASCADE



The Exeter CASCADE Project helps to develop digital skills for scholars.

Visit the [CASCADE blog](#).

"The digital is beginning to permeate our academic life, as print did in the Renaissance ...digital literacy is about being aware of the vast array of resources available and being able to choose the most useful tool to address their research requirements." – Helen Beetham, Jisc Consultant

+ About the project

+ Developing Digital Scholars



+ Developing the Digital Curriculum



+ Developing the Digital University



# Staff/students learning together

## #BYOD4L

### BYOD4L

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

#BYOD4L

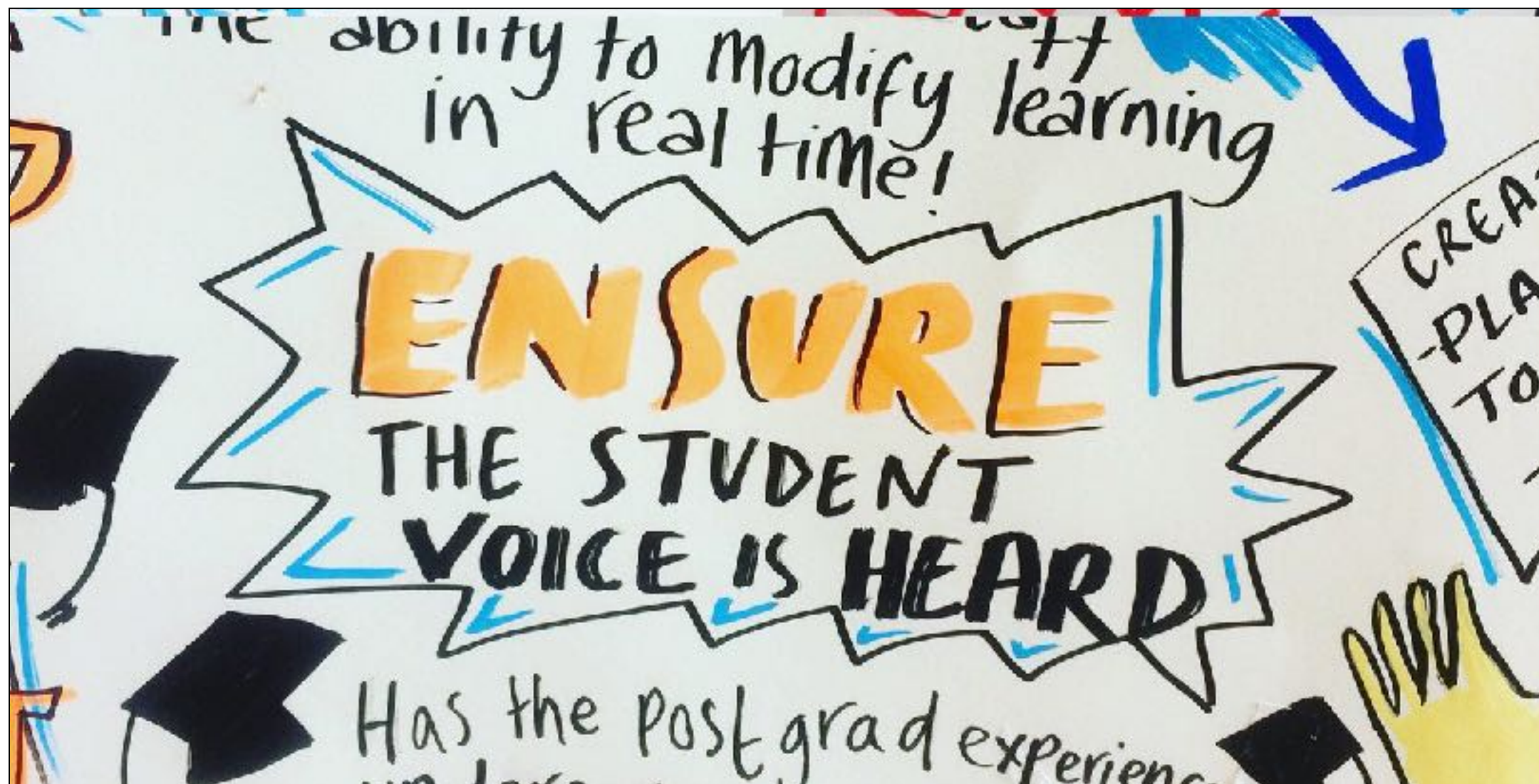
#BYOD4LCHAT

#BYOD4LHELP



# Students as co-researchers

*Authentic projects or open data*



Data-driven learning and teaching

UK Data Service



# Public knowledge production

wikipedia, wikimedia, youtube, slideshare...

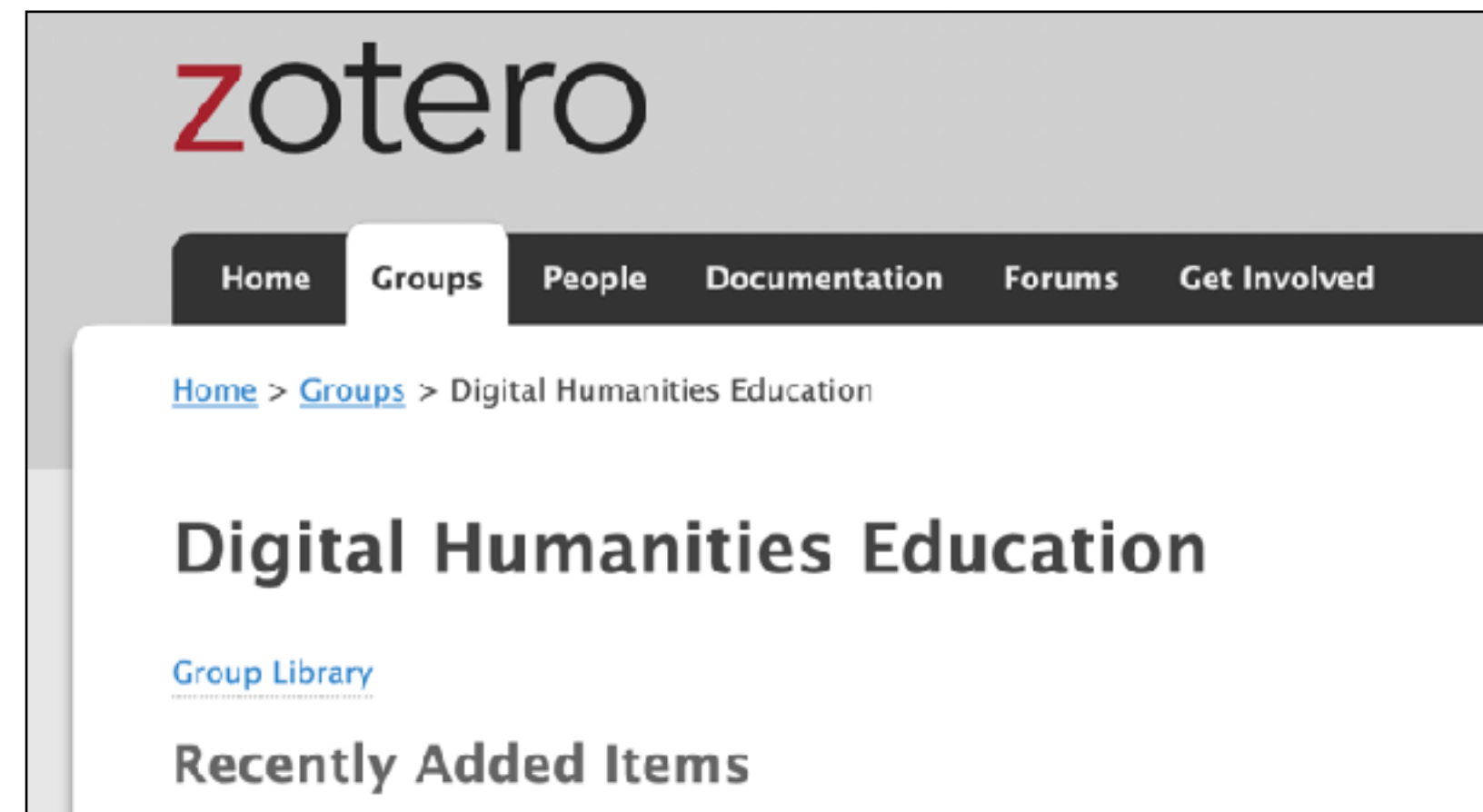
## Wikimedian in Residence

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



'Like IMDB for everything'  
Adalia Davis, July 2013



Browse our departments: [Fashion](#) | [Grocery](#) | [Electrical](#) | [Health & Beauty](#) | [Sport](#) | [Gifts](#) | [Money](#) | [Security](#) | [Auto](#)



Factory living



Farm living



Cafe living



Shop living

🍏 find hidden relations

**Follow it yourself! ftt**

Learn from the experts how to create stories that stick



🔗 make mischief

## Tweets by @followthethings

🔄 followthethings.com Retweeted

**Daisy Curtis**  
@derc201

A fab and engaging course, that really gets you thinking! 🤔 Loved taking the course last year 💻👛

Highly recommend it to anyone and everyone #whomademyclothes



Embed

View on Twitter

Google Search

Only search followthethings.com ✓

# Critical and open pedagogies

***#phonarnation phonarnation.org***



# Critical makers: hackathons and code bashes

**Jisc** Code of practice following analysis  
of literature review of the ethical and legal issues


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## Code of practice for learning analytics

A literature review of the ethical and legal issues

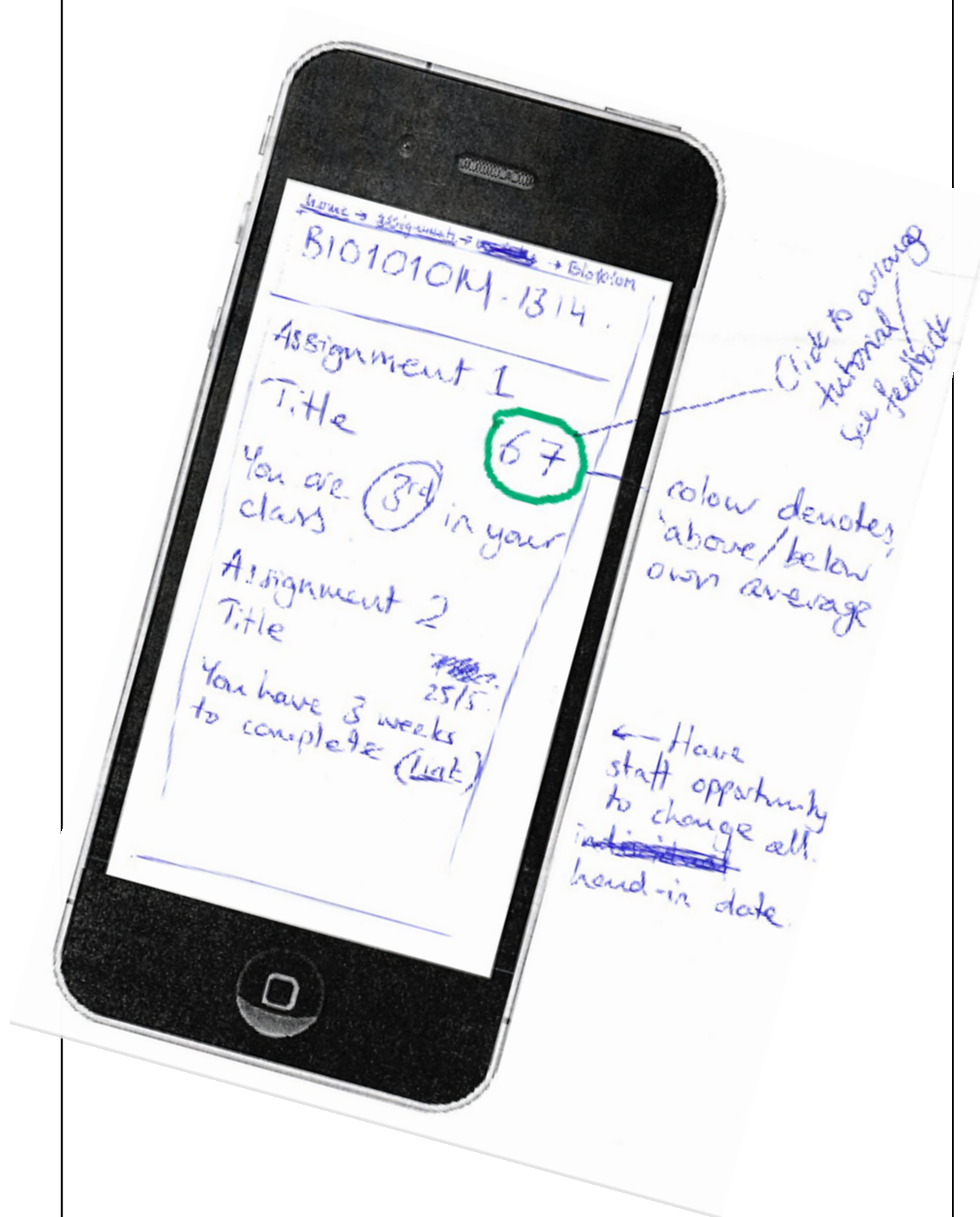

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Niall Scibier



Word cloud terms: respect, clarity, consent, security, access, accountability, transparency, user-control, privacy, integrity, choice, simplicity, responsibility, evaluation, beneficence, accuracy.

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<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



## Latest Ideas



### 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

