

**Title of Session:** Online Teaching and Learning

**Moderator:** Roger Goodson

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**RogerMG:** George and I are putting together a paper that will feature our TI interactions in OLTL and FROL over the past few years.

**JeffC:** cool

**RogerMG:** We hope to present it at the Organizational Behavior Teaching Conference in Charleston in June '09. We may be in touch with you for some input.

**RogerMG:** The Siemen's and Downes Connectivisim course has about 3000 participants in various venues. Moodle, Wikis, Blogs, Facebook, etc.

**GeorgeK:** Speaking of connectivism, what about our economic woes...with connectivism at their heart.

**RogerMG:** Actually, I've been able to make some really good connections with present and former students in both Facebook and LinkedIn.

**BJB2** nods. I keep getting emails from people in LinkedIn

**RogerMG:** I like the bailout idea . . .I have great faith the gov't 'knows' what it is doing.

**BJB2:** think the bailout will go through?

**GeorgeK:** Would you like to buy a bridge I have for sale?

**RogerMG:** No . . .as a taxpayer the gov't is going to buy it for me. I'll own a share.

**GeorgeK:** but only if it is overvalued

**BJB2** hopes that the people responsible will be held accountable

**RogerMG:** I find it interesting that the gov't colluded in allowing this to happen, and is now in great denial about it.

**BJB2** . o O ( probably have to jump off that Bridge George is trying to sell )

**GeorgeK:** no, the bridge already collapsed

**RogerMG:** My spouse is getting a new mattress to put the money under.

**BJB2** . o O ( shhhh....don't tell anyone about the bridge, George! )

**GeorgeK:** given the inflation I expect, make it a king sized one

**BJB2** sighs. Great time to enter retirement

**BJB2:** tell me more about the paper you are writing together

**BJB2:** and presenting in June

**RogerMG:** Hey . . .my grandma had money under the mattress in the Great Depression, and when she passed, I found several thousand dollars there. . .never did trust banks after the GD.

**RogerMG:** I'll let George outline the paper for you.

**GeorgeK:** We were amazed at how many participants were non-professors and at how good the info/feedback was from the participants

**GeorgeK:** possible title: "out of the mouths of babes....."

**GeorgeK:** Hard-hitting, on target comments by participants.

**RogerMG:** Using transcripts.

**GeorgeK:** Categorized- barriers, elements necessary for success, suggestions

**GeorgeK:** No real news, the Greeks had it right...reduce hubris and lots can happen

**RogerMG:** Because TI is an ICT, we will be focusing on that as a learning network, where knowledge and information can be shared, evaluated, created.

**GeorgeK:** power of inertia

**BJB2** nods....Tapped In is built on the idea that everyone has something to contribute to the community

**GeorgeK:** power of outmoded structure

**GeorgeK:** BJB, you are so right.

**BJB2** . o O ( which is one reason that we all have usernames real first name/last initial )

**BJB2:** any research on the efficacy of sites like second life?

**GeorgeK:** I am still not sure what we will conclude

**GeorgeK:** On 2ndlife...have not gone there yet but got a call for papers for a conference on 2nd life today

**BJB2:** read something recently on image vs text

**RogerMG:** Development of a learning community will be one focal point. One thing I was interested in getting from either you or Jeff is how many different forums there have been since TIs inception and what the geographic involvement of participants is . . .also, is TI just English based or are there diverse forums where other languages are 'spoken.'?

**BJB2:** first, click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen and then click on People in the blue menu bar.

**BJB2:** then look at the demographics page

**BJB2:** Phil Benz is leading discussions in French

**RogerMG:** OK . . .Any Spanish ones?

**BJB2:** and I believe there are discussions in Spanish and Portuguese

**RogerMG:** Thanks.

**GeorgeK:** BJB, these seemingly casual and unstructured chats really have a lot of useful learning, especially if you read the transcripts together like chapters of a book

**BJB2:** the interface can handle the different languages. Chinese is also used

**BJB2** agrees with George

**BJB2:** you might want to look at the TI papers page also for some info

**GeorgeK:** a book published serial-fashion, as they did a century ago.

**BJB2:** <http://ti2.sri.com/tappedin/web/papers/>

**RogerMG:** One thing I have noticed about those sorts or unstructured chats is that they resemble a group of people brainstorming and simultaneously doing 'discovery research.'

**BJB2** nods to Roger

**GeorgeK:** or action research, but the action is virtual

**BJB2:** that's how the Blanket the World with peace group was created

**BJB2:** and there is an Action Research group here.

**GeorgeK:** note the way Roger brings us back on task...he has gotten very good at that

**BJB2** chuckles. Yes, a good discussion leader has to keep us on topic

**GeorgeK:** Are we boring you, Jeff

**BJB2:** Jeff is busy with his three kids

**GeorgeK:** ok

**BJB2** . o O ( they probably need fed again! )

**GeorgeK:** BJB, if you had to state two or three things you have learned in your interactions with us over the years, what would they be?

**BJB2** . o O ( every Tuesday and Thursday ;- )

**RogerMG:** I notice in the demographics that there is a category in 'country' titled 'other' 110 countries. 8.24% any way to find out what those countries are?

**BJB2:** what I've learned: EVERYONE has something valuable to contribute to the discussion...

**GeorgeK:** good

**BJB2:** and I always learn something new in each discussion

**GeorgeK:** good, me too

**BJB2:** Roger, you might be able to search the directory...I'll check

**BJB2:** one important thing...the people who regularly return to Tapped In and join discussions...

**BJB2:** are lifelong learners who are willing to take risks

**GeorgeK:** I believe that to be true

**RogerMG:** In the Connectivism course there is a Moodle discussion dealing with epistemology. Lots interesting ideas there as to how knowledge is created, constructed, morphed, etc. One thought that was there is that knowledge is 'rhizomic' . . .like a root that spreads through the soil, popping up new leaves (ideas, etc.) here and there, rather

randomly.

**GeorgeK:** sounds right...is knowledge "socially / culturally" constructed, or solid

**BJB2:** may be random, but you'll also find that the people that participate in those discussions are a finite group that you continually run into in other venues

**RogerMG:** There is also that issue of the 'half-life' of knowledge . . .where it changes rapidly in some areas and more slowly in others.

**BJB2:** if you go to SEARCH and More Search Options...

**GeorgeK:** fewer than six stages of separation

**RogerMG:** I've noticed that BJ . . .Midge is one person like that.

**GeorgeK:** degrees, not stages

**BJB2:** then you can click on Country and see a huge list of countries...pick some at random and see if there are members in that country

**RogerMG:** I wonder what the motivation of the more regular attendees is? Any thoughts on that BJ?

**GeorgeK:** we are all looking for the companionship of people who are different but like-minded

**BJB2:** the regular attendees not only seek new information, they also contribute information to the discussion

**GeorgeK:** we need to belong

**GeorgeK:** we all want to contribute

**RogerMG:** looking for community? particularly of like-minded professionals?

**BJB2** agrees about belonging...we also need to feel needed or useful

**GeorgeK:** we all want to matter, and here, we do

**BJB2** agrees with George

**GeorgeK:** what was the old term- community of interest

**BJB2:** community of practice

**GeorgeK:** yes!

**GeorgeK:** I have the book on my shelf, somewhere???

**BJB2:** btw, I'm an example of the man on the street contributor...I have no degree above a BFA

**BJB2:** all my ideas have been nurtured by the Tapped In community

**BJB2** . o O ( nurture is a good word )

**RogerMG:** I was just about to say that BJ . . .very important.

**GeorgeK:** Roger and I have "different" degrees, too. my B.A. is German Lit.

**RogerMG:** Bio Sci, BS

**GeorgeK:** nurturing can best be done by a group with different backgrounds...

**BJB2:** and thrives in that environment

**RogerMG:** I think nurturing also infers 'growth'

**BJB2:** absolutely

**GeorgeK:** like a forest...too many of the same kind of tree is boring

**RogerMG:** also, 'change', as in 'change in perspectives or perceptions.'

**BJB2:** I think change is covered in the description of risk takers

**RogerMG:** The conference we are attending is focused on 'learning' this year.

**RogerMG:** I think sometimes, it is easier to take risks online, for many, than in f2f situations.

**RogerMG:** introverts in particular may find it easier to 'risk' online . . .would you agree?

**GeorgeK:** perhaps

**BJB2:** sometimes. It is for me

**BJB2:** but I've helped a lot of technophobes who would rather be boiled in oil than have to log in to Tapped In

**GeorgeK:** actually, we can't spare that much oil these days

**BJB2** laughs...true that!

**GeorgeK:** and think of how you thereby reduce global warming, BJB

**RogerMG:** I enjoy TI because it seems 'friendly' to me. Reception is very helpful, tutorials are useful and practical ...and there is humor here :-)

**GeorgeK:** and TI accepts "inactive" office people like me.

**BJB2:** That's perfect, Roger...I may quote you on that one

**RogerMG:** Spontaneity seems to be a regular 'thing' in most discussions. It's hard sometimes to get a group re-focused.

**BJB2:** that's where a good discussion leader is important

**RogerMG:** I find that I have to use every trick in the book to bring people back to focus . . .and sometimes, I just have to let it go and take on a life of its own. When it gets 'bad' is when the discussion turn redundant with the same things being said over and over again . . .that's when I often find it easier to intervene as people are getting bored with that line of thought and are ready for something new.

**GeorgeK:** was taught that introverts formulate what they say before they say it..therefore more precise

**RogerMG:** I can agree with that . . .introverts often make the most pithy statements.

**GeorgeK:** than extroverts who formulate thoughts orally, fixing them again and again until they get the thought they really wanted to express

**BJB2:** same as in a f2f, Roger. It's easier to keep people on topic if you set a specific topic at the beginning of the discussion

**RogerMG:** Yes. extroverts 'think out loud.'

**BJB2:** I like the text chat because then I can 'see' the words and construct meaning

**GeorgeK:** I always liked James Joyce, anyway, so stream of consciousness chats are good

**BJB2** . o O ( I'm an introvert )

**RogerMG:** True . . .and even then as in f2f situations, digressions may/will occur. It's sort of like deciding which digressions are worthwhile and can lead to interesting knowledge and learning points.

**GeorgeK:** I am an I also

**BJB2:** right, Roger

**BJB2:** again, that is something that can be 'guided' by a good discussion leader

**RogerMG:** I think, I am bit of both . . . intro and extro . . . perhaps there is an extro hidden in the intro, and perhaps the converse is true.

**BJB2:** and maybe online brings out the opposite evil twin?

**RogerMG:** And // /whether one is intro or extro may be contingency based.

**GeorgeK:** Let me drop something different here for the next hour.

**GeorgeK:** I sat next to the Provost at a dinner on Friday.

**RogerMG:** I know that some of my quietest students, when writing in their wikis often make very profound statements and show me parts of themselves that I doubt they often share with others.

**GeorgeK:** She told me that we now have 90%+ faculty using on-line in some way or other.

**GeorgeK:** But, the quality of what they do is very low, and the assessment capability is almost non-existent

**GeorgeK:** Maybe we should not hope for complete victory in FRTOL

**RogerMG:** Interesting George. I wonder how many of the faculty are participating in something like TI or have/are taken an online course.

**RogerMG:** OK. BJ , Jeff. We're off to FROL. See you there.

**BJB2:** when you get a chance, take a look at <http://www.c4lpt.co.uk/socialmedia/12stepplan.html>

**GeorgeK:** I don't think many do something like TI, but many are using Facebook

**RogerMG** left the room.

**GeorgeK:** ok, BJB

**GeorgeK:** bye