

The Habits of Highly Connected Learners



Stephen Downes

Integrating Technology 4 Active Lifelong Learning

October 20, 2013

Part A

The Semantic Condition

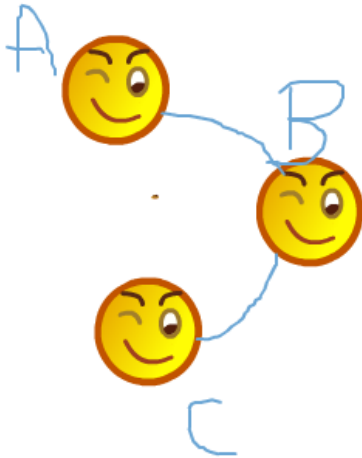
Where meaning comes from in networks

What is a Successful Network?

One with impetus and inspiration

enthusiastic and committed colleagues working collaboratively towards a common goal

A now knows C



Socially ENGAGED on the WORLD stage!

happy people collaborating together

meaning comes from social negotiation
in networks

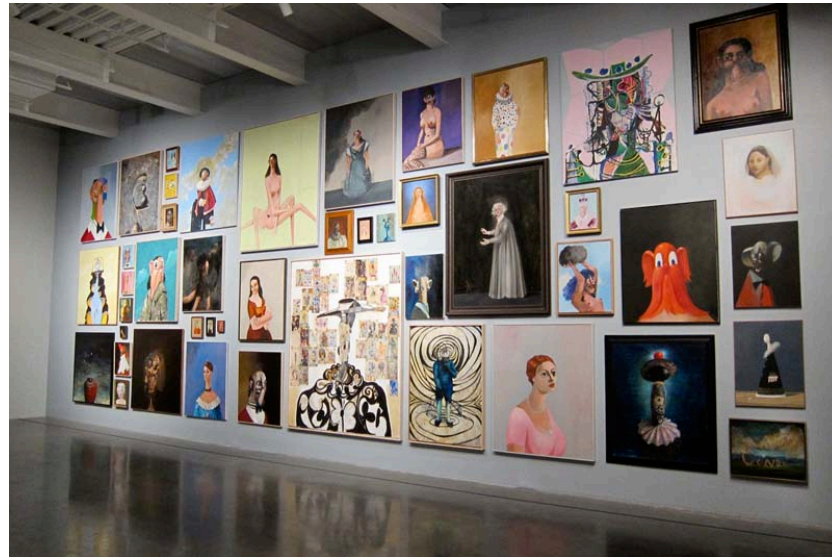
Autonomy

initiative

pro-active research

Self directed

- Freedom and the factors affecting mental states (empirical, cognitive, psychological)



<http://halfanhour.blogspot.com/2010/11/model-of-autonomy.html>

- Freedom as the capacity to act on mental states (physical, social, structural, resources)



- Scope and range of autonomous behaviour (expression, association, selection, method)



Diversity

dialectical creation

range of viewpoints and perspectives



Diversity

ideas and opinions

lots of difference points of view
working together or bumping
into each other



- Composition - many types of entities

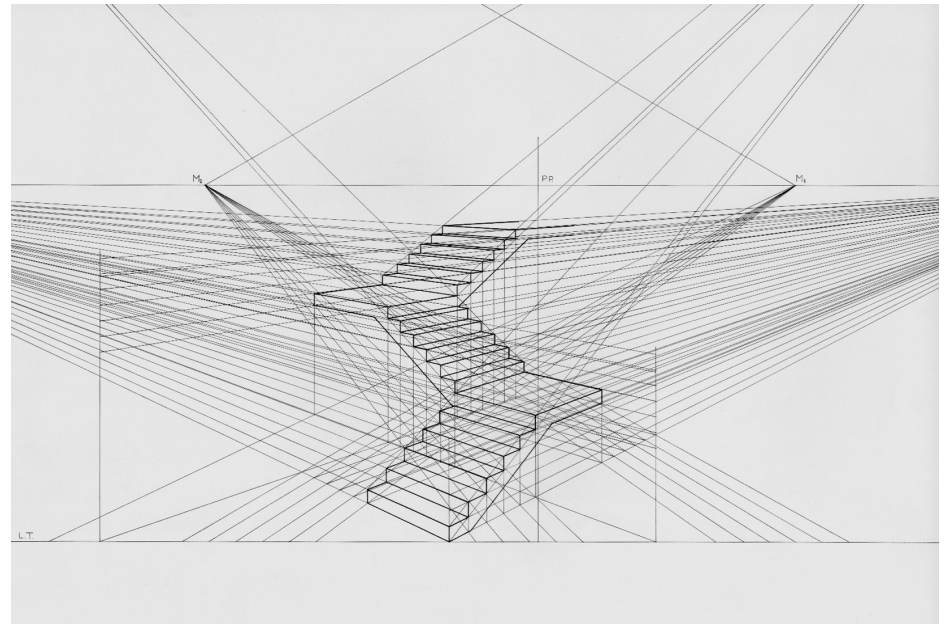
<http://lemire.me/fr/abstracts/DIVERSITY2008.html>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephen-downes/democratizing-education_b_794925.html

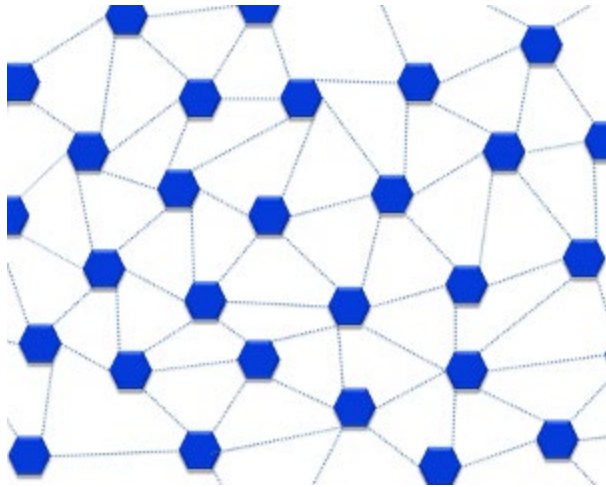
- Intention (of goals, desires (cf JS Mill))



- Perspective (uniqueness of point of view, language)



- Mathematics of diversity (multiple inputs produce mesh networks)



- Putnam, Florida, and the rest of it
- Homophily and associationism

<http://www.downes.ca/post/53544>

<http://profesorbaker.wordpress.com/2011/01/30/homophily-and-heterophily-what-fires-together-wires-together-cck11/>

Tolerance

Openness

continuum

Shared freely.

interoperable..easy to share

freely reusable
remashable

access to information

Canadianess

self-expression

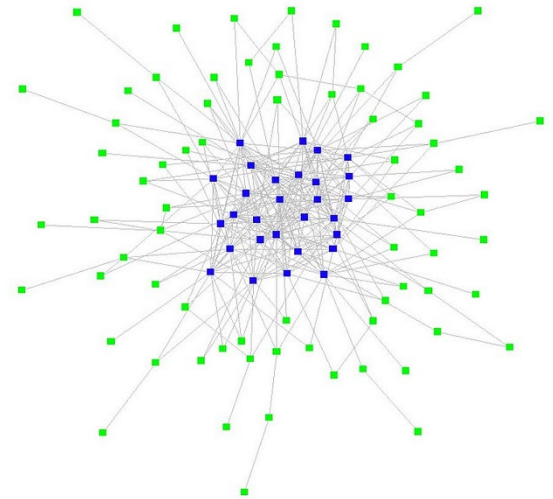
Freedom

free to say and do what we feel
without prejudice

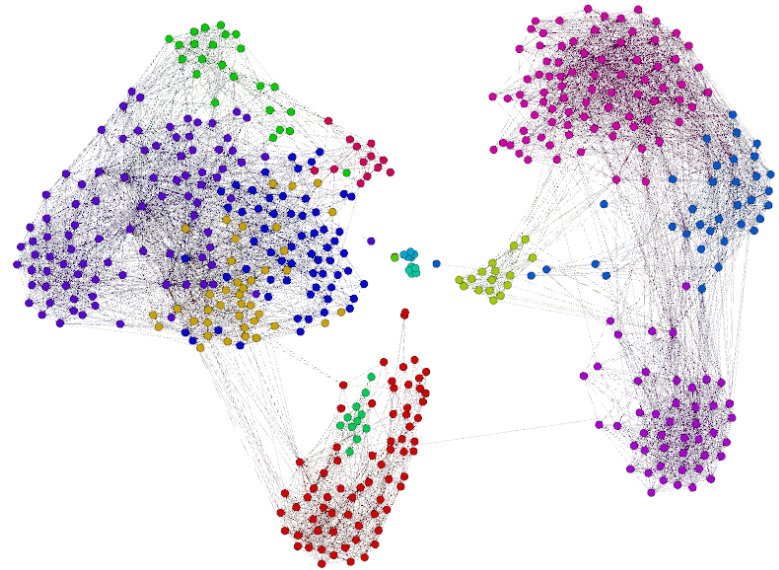
being unafraid of hearing and exploring
new things new perspectives new methods
tolerance and flexibility of mind

transparency

- Open education
 - Open content, teaching, assessment
 - Stages of openness and terminal path



- Open networks (clustering instead of grouping)



- Flow (input, output, feedback, plasticity)



- Open Educational Resources as the *medium of communication*



Interactivity

- Influence vs emergence (thought-bubbles – “we perceive wholes where there are only holes”)



<http://www.downes.ca/post/55001>

<http://connect.downes.ca/post/44222>

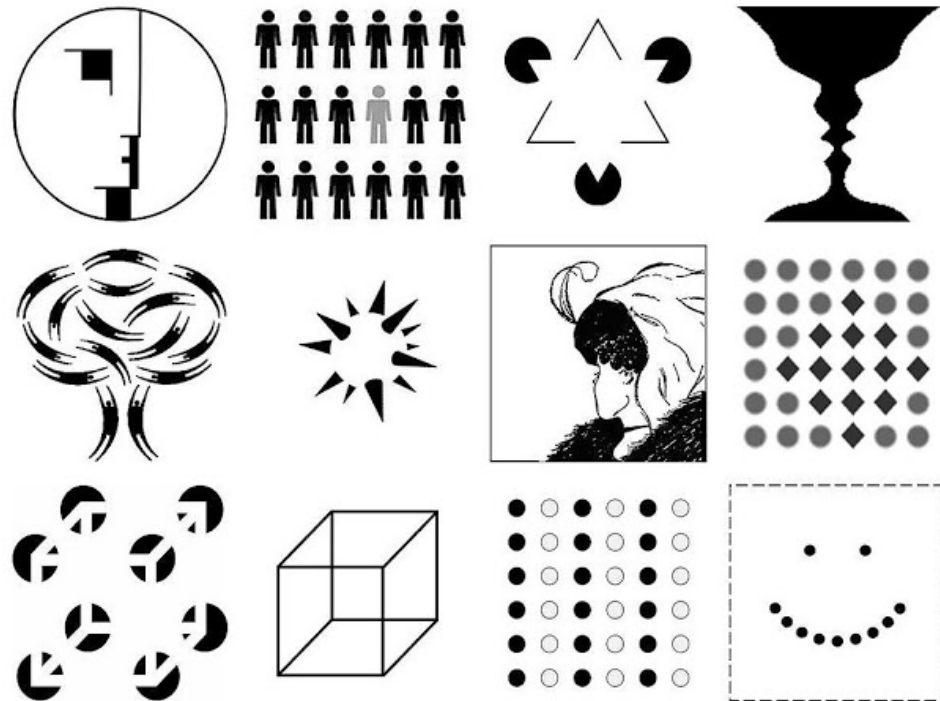
- Types of Emergence ('Scope' vs 'Level')



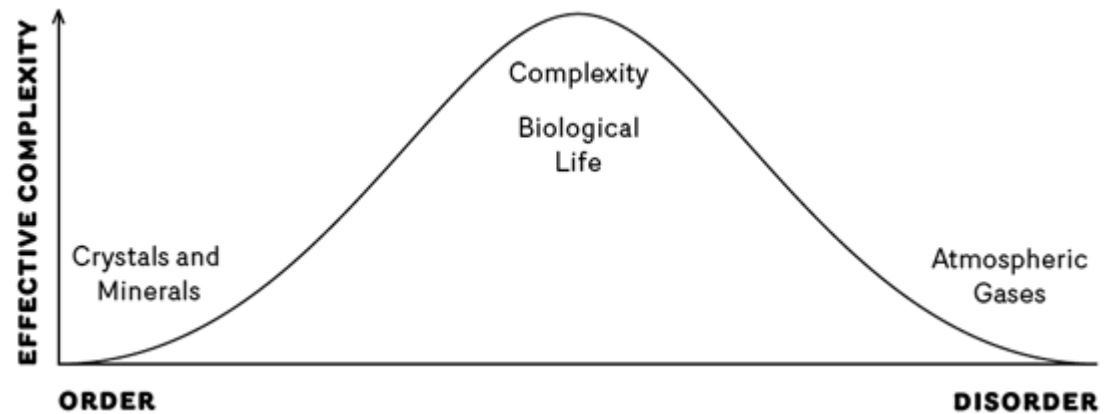
<http://www.thegraphicrecorder.com/2012/01/09/word-sketch-emergence/>

<http://www.downes.ca/post/42066>

- Ontology of emergence
 - Ontological (real) vs perceptual (recognized)



- Connection to complexity & chaos



Part B

Highly Connected People

Living meaningfully in the networked world

Being Reactive

- Publishing your own stuff is *secondary* to reading and commenting on other people's stuff



- The first thing any connected person should be is receptive. Open.



- Your content should be reactions to other people's points of view. This will ensure, first of all, that they read your comment, and second, that your post is relevant to the discussion at hand.



<http://sanja.deviantart.com/>

- Posting, after all, isn't about airing your own views. It's about connecting (draw the link between their content and yours)



Going With the Flow

- We all know those people in our online community who are out to "prove something," to "get things done," or to "market themselves "



- These are people we tend to avoid. Because no matter what the topic of discussion, they'll weigh in with their pet project, peeve, or talking point.



- It is more important to find the places to which you can add value rather than pursue a particular goal or objective.



- This doesn't mean you shouldn't have any goals or principles for yourself. You should.
 - that's what will inform your participation
 - But your goals are not the same as other people's goals, and you need to respect that



Connection Comes First

- People talk about not having time for email, of not having time for blogs...



- It's good to take a break and go out camping, or to the club, or whatever. But the idea of replacing your online connecting with busy-work is mistaken.



- In almost all fields, connecting with others *is* the work.



- If you don't have enough time for reading email, writing blog posts, or posting to discussion lists, ask yourself what other activities you are doing that are cutting in to your time. These are the things that are often less efficient uses of your time.

- Connecting online, versus...
 - spending time in meetings
 - spending time traveling or commuting to work
 - spending time reading books and magazines
 - spending time telephoning people (or worse, on hold, or playing phone tag)

Sharing

- We've all heard the advice to "think win-win." Forget that advice.
- If you follow that advice, you will always be looking at things and saying, "What's in it for me?" That's exactly the wrong attitude to have in a connected world.



- Share without thinking about what you will get in return.
- Share without worrying about so-called "free-riders" or people taking advantage of your work.



- You want to be needed and wanted.

TYRONE COMMUNITY HALL
Catch the Spirit



Tyrone Community Dance

The following jobs are available:

- Make Sandwiches
- Design Tickets
- Set-up
- Clean up

Get community hours for high school!
Give time to your community! Meet your neighbours!

Contact Mark Canning at macapoin@microsoft.com with your name, phone and/or email and the Board will contact you!

- When you share, people are more willing to share with you.



Learning for Ourselves

- RTFM stands for "Read The Fine Manual" (or some variant thereof)



- People should make the effort to learn for themselves before seeking instruction from others.

- Taking the time and effort to look at this work is not merely respectful, it demonstrates competence and self-reliance.

Homo Competens

Let's talk about competent people in the network age



Bert De Coustere

- This saves people from giving you advice you don't need, and helps them focus on what's unique about your problem.



Cooperation

- Offline people collaborate. They join teams, share goals, and work together.



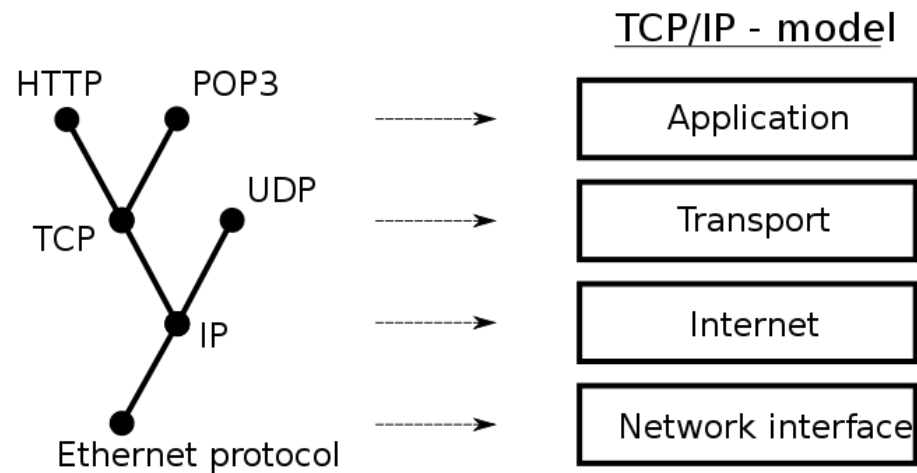
- Online, people cooperate. They network. Each has his or her own goals and objectives.



- Online communications are much more voluntary than offline communications. And successful online connectors recognize this.

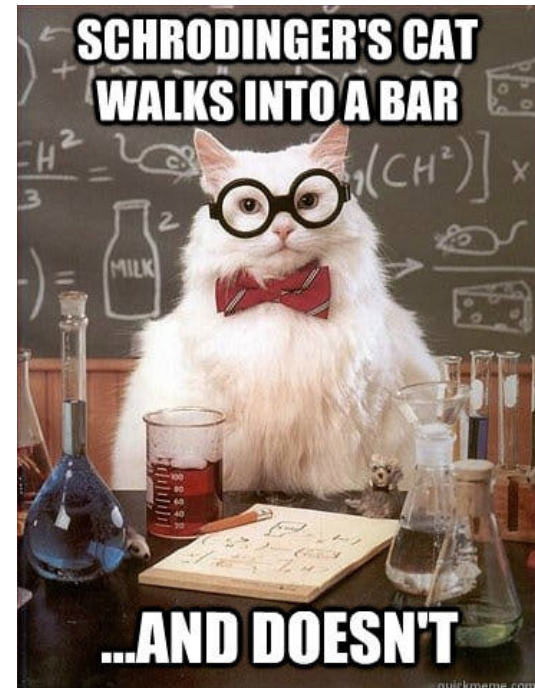


- Cooperation is based on protocols.
 - These are not rules-anybody can break them.
 - They establish the basis for communication.



Engage

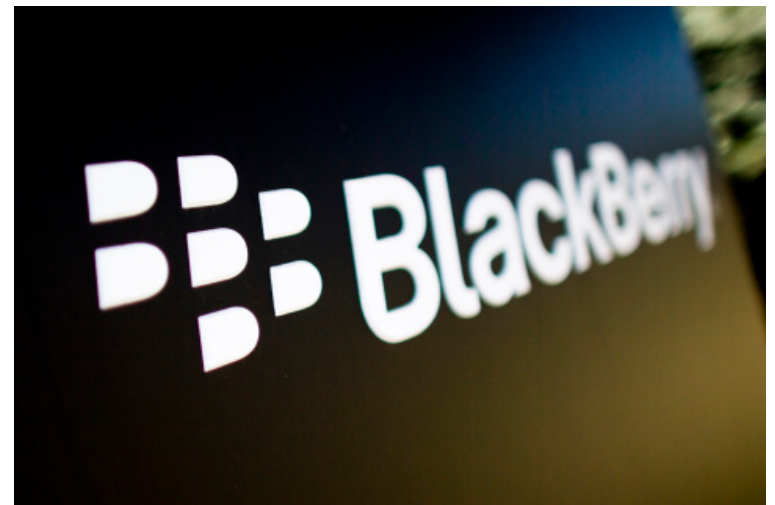
- Having a cat can be as important for a physicist as having an advanced research lab.



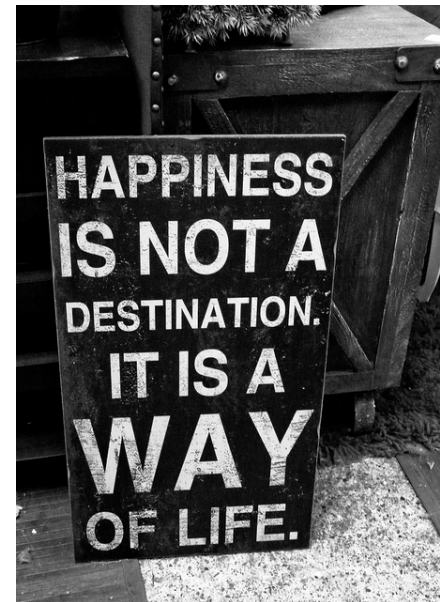
- Communication depends as much on feeling as it does with cognition.



- People who use online communications "only for business are employing only a small part of the communications capacity of the Internet.



- Learning and communicating are not merely acts of sending content over a wire. They are about engaging in (what Wittgenstein called) a "way of life."



- These common everyday things form the mental structure on which we hang the highly theoretical structure.

Stephen Downes

<http://www.downes.ca>