



Connected Learning for the Curious



This is a remix of notes taken from the Teaching in Higher Ed Podcast episode featuring Laura Gogia. Gogia is an expert and strong advocate of connected learning. You can listen to the podcast yourself by going to <http://teachinginhighered.com/podcast/connected-learning-curious/>

Why Connected Learning?

Laura began her career as a Gynecological Surgeon. However her lack of a supportive network of colleagues led to feelings of isolation & eventually, burnout.

Thus began the journey which eventually led her to discover & explore connected learning!

Your PLN: the core of connected learning

For Laura, the Personal Learning Network (PLN) is the central force within connected learning.

She says it "provides a way to establish connections across space and time, transcending disciplines & professions".

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A strong message in the podcast is that successful connected learning helps learners understand and value connections in learning. They do so by seeing the relevance their learning has across different areas of their life.

Laura discussed connected learning by breaking it into four areas, which are shared below.

#1

Theory

Laura namechecks Julian Sefton-Green as a key figure in her connected learning research. She says his work investigating how learners develop an holistic 'learning life' which reflects the rich learning identity of the individual is seminal. The theory of connected learning explores how connections between people, disciplines & contexts might support authentic and engaging learning.

#2

Design

Pedagogical design flows from the theory, and informs a great deal of Laura's work. She says that pedagogical design explores how to create learning spaces where connected learning happens. She calls this 'connected course design', and says it involves three aspects.

1. Openly networked spaces where learning is easily accessed & shared across different platforms.
2. Networked participatory activities where students collaborate and construct learning socially
3. Multimodal composition where learners use multimodal resources to create learning beyond traditional literacies (reading, writing)

Tools

#3

TOOLS

Tools do not direct the learning. The pedagogy and learning is what drives the choice of tool.

There are countless tools available for connected learning. Some mentioned by Laura include:

- * Blogging
- * Microblogging (e.g. Twitter)
- * Curation Tools (e.g. Pinterest, Elink.io)
- * Annotation (e.g. Hypothes.is)

Outcomes

Outcomes of a connected learning experience require assessment that reflects the theory & pedagogical design.

Connected learning requires assessment that goes beyond simple measurement of content acquisition. Assessment is seen less as a quantitative process & more like the documentation of the process of learning.

#4

Source: