

E-learning

Thematic Session 4: Sociopolitical Issues

Key topics: technological, pedagogical, social, sociopolitical and ecological issues in e-learning

Key terms: moral panics, multitasking, continuous partial attention, second enclosure movement

Key theorists: Marc Prensky, Tara Brabazon, Linda Stone, Mark Warschauer

"Don't Iraq Iran" Protests in Second Life on December 1st



| **Second Life Protest** – Screen capture from *The Click Heard Round the World: MP 2007* |

First thoughts ...

After glancing at the *Trend Blend 2009+* map (**Handout 4A**), discuss the following questions with the class:

- Which of the trends do you think will have the most dramatic impact on society in the coming decade?
- How do digital technologies contribute to these trends – and how might they be used to deal with them?
- What role might educators have to play in preparing students to face upcoming challenges and changes?

1) Technological issues in e-learning

Today we're going to consider some problematic issues with web 2.0, focusing on five levels – the technological, the pedagogical, the social, the sociopolitical, and the ecological. You may wish to make notes on each area.

 Technological issues

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cloud computing	
virtual/real fusion	

2) Pedagogical issues in e-learning

 Pedagogical issues

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polarisation of opinion	
teacher training	

3) Social issues in e-learning

Social issues

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the net generation

Teens and Social Media: Summary of Findings at a Glance
The use of social media – from blogging to online social networking to creation of all kinds of digital material – is central to many teenagers’ lives.
Girls continue to lead the charge as the teen blogosphere grows; 28% of online teens have created a blog, up from 19% in 2004.
The growth in blogs tracks with the growth in teens’ use of social networking sites, but they do not completely overlap.
Online boys are avid users of video-sharing websites such as YouTube, and boys are more likely than girls to upload.
Digital images – stills and videos – have a big role in teen life.
Posting images and video often starts a virtual conversation. Most teens receive some feedback on the content they post online.
Most teens restrict access to their posted photos and videos – at least some of the time. Adults restrict access to the same content less often.
In the midst of the digital media mix, the landline is still a lifeline for teen social life.
Multi-channel teens layer each new communications opportunity on top of pre-existing channels.
Email continues to lose its luster among teens as texting, instant messaging, and social networking sites facilitate more frequent contact with friends.
Source: Lenhart, A. Madden, M. Rankin Macgill, A. Smith, A., <i>Teens and Social Media: The use of social media gains a greater foothold in teen life as email continues to lose its luster</i> . Washington, DC: Pew Internet & American Life Project, December 19, 2007.

| **Teens & social media.** Source: Pew Internet (2007). |

NB: You will find some comments on cybersafety in *The net benefit* (**Handout 4B**).

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attention

4) Sociopolitical issues in e-learning

Sociopolitical issues

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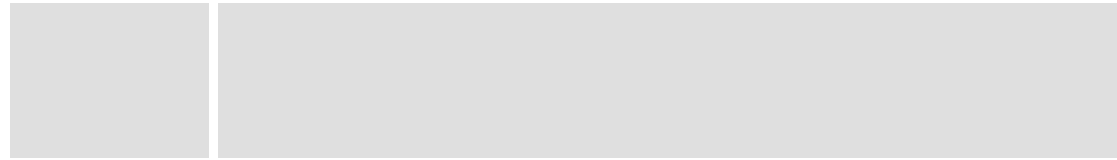
the digital divide	
the law	
surveillance	
cultural imperialism	

5) Ecological issues in e-learning

Ecological issues

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ecological issues	
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NB: You will find a summary of the first four levels in *Essential conversations: 4 visions of CALL (Handout 4C)*.

