

e-Learning Ecologies

Innovative Approaches to Teaching and Learning for the Digital Age

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The Old School



Here we are at school. All is well, the students are busily at work \dots



'Look this way', the teacher says.

'Listen to what I tell you about Answer my questions, hands up, only one person may speak at a time.'



'Now, everyone read chapter 7—carefully, and silence, please \ldots '



'... and now, answer the questions at the end of the chapter. No talking.'

Soula looks up for a moment. Is she thinking about her work? Or is she daydreaming?



Then, something terrible happens ...



'Turn around, Soula,' says the teacher. 'Don't disturb the girls behind you.'



The Old School

Then, computers come,

... and what changes?





FIG. I. A recent model of a teaching machine for the lower grades. The machine operates on the principles described in the accompanying article. Material is presented in a window with a few letters or figures missing. The pupil moves sliders which cause letters or figures to appear. When an answer has been composed, the pupil turns a crank. If the answer was right, a new frame of material moves into the window and the sliders return to their home position. If the answer was wrong, the sliders return but the frame remains and must be completed again. (This is a later version of the device described in Skinner's 1954 paper.)

B.F. Skinner's Teaching Machine

Skinner invented a "teaching machine," also neatly contained in a box, even if this time the child being conditioned was outside the box, literally though perhaps not metaphorically. A lone child was presented material, a question was posed by the machine as substitute teacher, the student gave an answer, and then she was judged right or wrong. If right, she could move on; if wrong she must answer again. This was behaviorism translated into in mechanized practice.

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The New School



Kalantzis, Mary and Bill Cope. 2015. "Learning and New Media." in *The Sage Handbook of Learning*, edited by D. Scott and E. Hargreaves. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage.







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Three Pivotal Artifacts

1. Classroom Discourse

2. The Textbook

3. The Test

Artifact 1: Classroom Discourse



The Rule of St Benedict

"For it belongeth to the master to speak and to teach; it becometh the disciple to be silent and to listen. If, therefore, anything must be asked of the Superior, let it be asked with all humility and respectful submission."

> St Benedict. c.530 [1949]. *The Holy Rule of St. Benedict.* Translated by O. Rev. Boniface Verheyen. Chapter 1.

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Daphne Kohler on MOOCs

"Of course, we all know as educators that students don't learn by sitting and passively watching videos. Perhaps one of the biggest components of this effort is that we need to have students who practice with the material in order to really understand it... even simple retrieval practice, where students are just supposed to repeat what they already learned gives considerably improved results on various achievement tests down the line than many other educational interventions. We've tried to build in retrieval practice into the platform... For example, even our videos are not just videos. Every few minutes, the video pauses and the students get asked a question."

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"Hands up!"

Teacher initiates: 'What's the furthest planet from the sun in the Solar System?'

Students respond: (Members of the class shoot up their hands, and one responds, a proxy for all the others:) 'Pluto.'

Teacher evaluates: 'Yes, that's correct!' (Or an alternative ending: 'No, that's wrong, does someone else know the answer?')











Changing the Relationships between Learners



The Old School

The New School

Classroom Discourse (still ... and utterly transformed)

- 1. Everyone responds
- 2. Lowered barriers to response
- 3. From oral and written
- 4. When everyone responds, learner differences become visible and valuable
- 5. This is highly engaging
- 6. The read/write mix and the participation mix is about right
- 7. We can break out of the four walls of the classroom and the cells of the timetable
- 8. Anyone can be an initiator
- 9. A new transparency, learning analytics and assessment

Artifact 2. The Textbook



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Petrus Ramus' Textbook

Perhaps the most prolific of all early modern authors, Petrus Ramus, comes to prominence in print in the century after Gutenberg. Appointed professor at the University of Paris in 1551, Ramus was a prolific writer of textbooks. Walter Ong, exhaustive chronicler and analyst of Ramus's legacy, has identified 750 separately published editions in 1100 separate printings between 1550 and 1650.

Ong, Walter J. 1958 [1983]. Ramus, Method and the Decay of Dialogue. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.

The Second Booke.

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Circles are faid to touch one another, when touching they doe not cutte one another, 3.d 3 as here the periphery doth a ej, doth touch the periphery on y. Therefore 8. Touching is but in one point onely. d 13. p 3.

This Confectary is immediatly conceived out of the definition; for otherwifeir were a cutting, not touching. So *Ariforle* in his *Mechanicky* faith 1 That a round is calilieft mon'd and moft fwift; Becaufe it is leaft touch't of the plaine underneath it.

9. A crooked line is either a Periphery or an Helix. This alfo is fuch a division, as our Authour could then hitte on.

10. A Periphery is a crooked line, which is equally, diftant from the middelt of the space comprehended.

Peripheria, a Periphery, or Circumference, as evo, doth frand equally diffant from a the middelt of the fpace enclosed or conteined within it, Therefore

II. A Periphery is made by the turning about of a line, the one end thereof flanding fill, and the other drawing the line.

Now

As in e i o. let the point a fland ftill: And let the line a o, be turned about, fo that the point o doe make a race, and it fhall make the periphery e o i. Out of this fabricke doth Euclide, at the 15, d. j. frame the definition of a Periphery : And fo doth hee afterwarde define a Cone, a Spheare, and a Cylinder, The fecond Booke?

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Now the line that is turned about, may in a plaine, bee either a right line or a crooked line: In a fphericall it is onely a crooked line: But in a conicall or Cylindraceall it may bee a right line, as is the fide of a Cone and Cylinder. Therefore in the convertion of turning about of a line making a periphery, there is confidered onely the diflance; yea two points, one in the center, the other in the toppe, which therefore Arifkotle nameth *Roundi principia*, the principles or beginnings of a round.

12. An Helix is a crooked line which is unequally difant from the middeft. of the fpace, howforver inclofed.

Hac torinofa linea, This crankled line is of Proclas called Helicoider, But it may also be called Helix, a twift or wreath. The Greeker by this

word do commonly either underfland one of the kindes of Ivie which windeth it felfe about trees& other plants; or the flrings of the vine, whereby it eacheth hold and twiltech it

felfe about fuch things as are fet for it to clime or run upon. Therfore it fhould properly fignific the fpirallline. But as it is here taken it hath divers kindes; As is the Arithmutica which is Archimede'es Helix, as the Conchois, Cocklefhell-like: as is the Citatis, furfike: The Tetragonifon/a, the Citcle fquaring line, to witt that by whole meanes a citcle may be brought into a fquare: The Admitable line, found out by Monetaw: The Conicall Ellipfe, the Hyperbole, the Parabole, fuch as the Care, they attribute to Mene-

Petrus Ramus, Euclid's Elements (1569, English Translation 1636)



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Petrus Ramus, Way to Geometry (1636 English Translation)

1. The porisets

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right angle, and yet it is no

. - Y

Centrum

O

A table of contents points to a Book IV, "Of A Figure," commencing on page 32. Arriving at this page we find a section numbered and named, "1. A figure is a lineate bounded on all parts." Then, "So the triangle is a e 1..." and below that, I drawing of a triangle with its three corners labeled a, e, and 1.

Ramus relies on the visual in ways the Gutenberg in his Bible did not. He creates a spatialized architectonics of decomposition, from one visually compartmentalized cell of knowledge to the next, ordered from the simpler ideas to the more complex, and the diagrammed taxonomic relationships of main and subsidiary concepts. There is also the multimodal integration of text with image using labels and figure references.



Walter Ong on Petrus Ramus

Walter Ong, Jesuit priest, does not hide his dislike of Petrus Ramus, Protestant convert. "The Ramist arts of discourse are monologue arts. They develop the didactic, schoolroom outlook which... tends finally even to lose the sense of monologue in pure diagrammatics." Ramism "crowds spatial models into the universe of the mind," a precursor, for better or for worse of "the Newtonian revolution, with its stress on visually controlled observation of mathematics, and its curiously silent, nonrhetorical universe."

Ong, Walter J. 1958 [1983]. Ramus, Method and the Decay of Dialogue. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press. Pp. 287, 318.

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Social Learning, Collaborative Intelligence



COGNITION

METACOGNITION

<u>Learning Activity</u>: a focus on representation of specific <u>Self-regulation of Learning</u>: project objectives, phase outline; ongoing content knowledge dialogue around processes

<u>Disciplinary Practice</u>: thinking about a specific topic, its <u>Disciplinary Thinking</u>: a focus on the general conditions of insightful work in facts and arguments this discipline; epistemological reflection

Empirical Work: outlining specific content, applying *Theoretical Work:* thinking based on the general theoretical precepts of the disciplinary reasoning to that content discipline; a play/dialogue between the particular (thinking about specific details of knowledge), and the general (thinking about conceptual concepts and frameworks that tie this knowledge together).

<u>Individual Intelligence</u>: the activity of representing <u>Collaborative Intelligence</u>: structured feedback; productive diversity in knowledge (including contribution to jointly created learning from varied perspectives works)

Learning: the knowledge representation made by the *Assessment:* formative assessments by peers, teachers and self; retrospective student data analytics

Knowledge Representations

Learners as knowledge producers, not (just) knowledge consumers

Multimodal knowledge artifacts

Complex epistemic performance

There is no scale

Artifact 3: The Test

Traditional Assessment





 0 and 25: idiot
 115-124: above average

 26 and 50: imbecile
 125-134: gifted

 51 and 70: moron
 140-145: genius

Goddard, Henry H. 1920.*Human Efficiency and Levels of Intelligence* Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press



Traditional Tests

- 1. Measure long-term memory
- 2. Address a narrow cognitive range: facts and procedures
- 3. A peculiar test logic, unlike other places of knowledge activity
 - 4. Limited sampling
 - 5. Disturbing experiences
 - 6. A linear process: backward looking and judgmental by nature
 - 7. Individualized, isolating
 - 8. Insist on inequality

Then computers come...

... and nothing (really) changes.





Education 1.0

1. Teacher-centered

2. Learner as knowledge consumer

3. Knowledge transmission and replication

4. Long term memory

5. Knowledge as fact, correctly executable theorem, definition

6. Cognitive focus

7. Individual minds

8. Long cycle feedback, retrospective and judgmental (summative assessment)



From Mastery Learning to Reflexive Pedagogy



Optimal instruction: regular, formative assessment that directs teachers to intervene in the case of students who are falling behind, allowing students to work at their own pace, group work, and intensive tutoring.

Bloom, Benjamin S. 1968. "Learning for Mastery." Evaluation Comment 1(2):1-2.

Definition

[,]Big data' and 'artificial intelligence' in education are:

1.the *purposeful or incidental recording* of activity and interactions in digitally-mediated, networkinterconnected learning environments—the volume of which is unprecedented in large part because the datapoints are smaller and the recording is continuous;

2.the *varied types of data* that are recordable and analyzable;

- 3.the *accessibility and durability* of these data, with potentials to be: a) immediately available for formative assessment or adaptive instructional recalibration, and b) persistent for the purposes of developing learner profiles and longitudinal analyses;
- 4.the application of *machine learning and artificial intelligence* where the machine learns from patterns of student interaction;
- 5.presentations of **data analytics**—syntheses based on the particular characteristics of these data, for learner and teacher feedback, institutional accountability, educational software design, learning resource development, and educational research.

The question of Artificial Intelligence



Alan Turing's "On Computable Numbers"

"Can machines think?" asked Alan Turing... His answer was that, some day in the not-too-distant future, in a certain sense they might. "Lady Lovelace's Objection: ... she states, 'The Analytical Engine has no pretensions to originate anything. It can do whatever we know how to order it to perform'." But perhaps, says Turing, the Analytical Engine had the potential to "think for itself" to the extent that it could come up with surprising answers to mathematical problems... in this sense Lovelace was not so wrong. "At my present rate of working I produce about a thousand digits of programme a day... Meanwhile, "[p]arts of modern machines which can be regarded as analogues of nerve cells work about a thousand times faster than the latter... Machines take me by surprise with great frequency..., largely because I do not do sufficient calculation."

> Turing, A.M. 1950. "Computing Machinery and Intelligence." Mind 59:433-60. Pp 450, 455, 459.

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Electric Adder to the Base Two

A circuit is to be designed that will automatically add two numbers, using only relays and switches. Although any numbering base could be used the circuit is greatly simplified by using the scale of two. Each digit is thus either 0 or 1; the number whose digits in order are

$$a_k, a_{k-1}, a_{k-2}, \dots, a_2, a_1, a_0$$
 has the value $\sum_{j=0}^{k} a_j 2^j$.

Using the method of symmetric functions, and shifting down for s_j gives the circuits of Figure 35. Eliminating superfluous elements we arrive at Figure 36.



Table I. Analogue Between the Calculus of Propositions and the Symbolic Relay Analysis

Symbol	Interpretation in Relay Circuits	Interpretation in the Calculus of Propositions
X	The circuit X	The proposition X
0	The circuit is closed	The proposition is false
1	The circuit is open	The proposition is true
X + Y	The series connection of circuits X and Y	The proposition which is true if either X or Y is true
XY	The parallel connection of circuits X and Y	The proposition which is true if both X and Y are true
X'	The circuit which is open when X is closed and closed when X is open	The contradictory of proposition X
=	The circuits open and close simultaneously	Each proposition implies the other



Claude Shannon's Relay Circuits

In 1938 Shannon come up with the idea that, instead of paper tape, relay circuits or on/off switches could represent mathematical symbols as zeros and ones, and doing the work of calculation electrically. Applying the elementary logic of nineteenth century mathematical philosopher, George Boole, he suggested that when the circuit is closed a proposition could be considered false, and when it is open, it could be considered true: "any circuit is represented by a set of equations, the terms of the equations corresponding to the various relays and switches in the circuit. A calculus is developed for manipulating these equations by simple mathematical processes." Such an electronic machine would work sequentially through a series of yes/no binaries.

Shannon, Claude E. 1938. "A Symbolic Analysis of Relay and Switching Circuits." Transactions American Institute of Electrical Engineers 57:471-95. P. 471.

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"Intelligent Eachinery".

l propose to investigate the question as to whether it is possible for machinery to abow intelligent behaviour. It is usually assumed without argument that it is not possible. Common catch phrases such as 'acting like a machine', 'purely mechanical behaviour' reveal this common attitude. It is not difficult to see why such an attitude should have arisen. Some of the reasons are

(a) An unwillingness to admit the possibility that mankind can have any rivals in intellectual power. This occurs as much amongst intellectual people as amongst others: they have more to lose. Those who admit the possibility all agree that its realization would be very disagreeable. The same situation arises in comnection with the possibility of our being superseded by some other animal species. This is almost as disagreeable and its theoretical possibility is indisputable.

(b) A religious belief that any attempt to construct such machines is a sort of Fromethean irreverence.

(c) The very limited character of the machinery which has been used until recent times (e.g. up to 1940). This encouraged the belief that machinery was necessarily limited to extremely straightforward, possibly even to repetitive, jobs. This attitude is very well expressed by Dorothy Sayers (The Lind of the Laker, p. 46) "... which imagines that God, having created his Universe, has now screwed the cap on his pen, put his feet on the rantelpiece and left the work to get on with itself." This, however, rather conces into St. Augustine's category of figures of speech or enignatic sayings framed from things which do not exist at all. We simply do not 'now of any creation which goes on creating itself in variety when the creator has withdrawn from it. The idea is that God simply created a vast machine and has left it working until it runs down from lack of fuel. This is another of those obscure analogies, since we have no experience of machines that produce variety of their own accord; the nature of a machine is to do the same thing over and over again so long as it keeps going."

(d) Recently the theorem of Godel and related results (Godel 1, Church 1, Yuring 1) have shown that if one tries to use machines for such purposes as determining the truth or falsity of mathematical theorems and one is not willing to tolerate an occasional wrong result, then any given machine will in some cases be unable to give an answer at all. On the other hand the human intelligence seems to be able to find methods of ever increasing power for dealing with such problems 'transcending' the methods available to machines.

(e) In so far as a machine can show intelligence this is to be regarded as not ing but a reflection of the intelligence of its creator.

Alan Turing's "Intelligent Machinery"

Turing joined the National Physical Laboratory, whose director was Sir Charles Darwin, grandson of the natural scientist. Turing and the team to which he belonged made slow progress on the machine, the Automatic Computing Engine (a nod in the name to Babbage's Engines). In the meantime, Turing wrote a speculative report, "Intelligent Machinery."..."The electrical circuits which are used in electronic computing machinery seem to have the essential properties of nerves," Turing said. Sir Charles Darwin was not impressed, "a schoolboy's essay... not suitable for publication" was his verdict... The report was not published until after Turing's death.

> Turing, A.M. 1948. "Intelligent Machinery." A Report to the National Physical Laboratory. P.8.

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The Mechanical Brain

"Manchester 1" had 1024 bits of random access memory, with paper tape input and output—this last mechanism had been Turing's suggestion. By 1949, announced The Times, "the mechanical brain" in Manchester had done something that was practically impossible to achieve in paper. It had found a some previously undiscovered, extremely large prime numbers.

Right: Alan Turing

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"How did this happen?" asks Alan Turing

"Parts of modern machines which can be regarded as analogues of nerve cells work about a thousand times faster than the latter." So, the "view that machines cannot give rise to surprises is due to a fallacy..., the assumption that as soon as a fact is presented to a mind all consequences of that fact spring into the mind simultaneously with it." Things can present themselves as surprises after a lot of working over data, and some of the working over that machines can do is too laborious for manual calculation.

> Turing, A.M. 1950. "Computing Machinery and Intelligence." Mind 59:433-60. P. 451.

Two Definitions of AI

1. More calculation than humans can reasonably do.

Or, more narrowly:

2. Machine learning, (and deep learning, neural nets): data that recalibrates itself as new data entered.

New Frontiers: Machine Learning

Crowdsourced, collaborative intelligence, where users train the machine to detect high order thinking.





What AI Does: Four Textualities

- 1. Al **names in Unicode** (graphemes: some phonemes, mostly and more importantly now, ideographs); including stuff that can now speak its name in the internet of things
- 2. Al **counts instances and concepts** represented in Unicode on a scale not feasible for humans
- 3. Al **transposes measurable qualities into quantities** (ambience ... the e.g. ambient intelligent classroom)
- 4. Al **renders** by laborious decomposition > calculation > on-the-fly recomposition : image/text in pixels; sound/speech

Traditional Tests	Al-supported, Embedded Assessments
1. Measure long-term memory	Assess higher-order thinking
2. Address a narrow cognitive range: facts and procedures	Address complex epistemic performance
3. A peculiar test logic, unlike other places of knowledge activity	Offer a broad range of data types and data points, authentic to knowledge work
4. Limited sampling	Big Data: n=all
5. Disturbing experiences	Embedded assessment is the learner's friend
6. A linear process: backward looking and judgmental by nature	Recursive processes: prospective and constructive by nature
7. Individualized, isolating	Assess collaborative as well as individual intelligence
8. Insist on inequality	Mastery learning, where every learner can succeed

The Test is Dead.

Long Live Assessment!

Education 1.0	Education 2.0
1. Teacher-centered	Learner as agent, participant
2. Learner as knowledge consumer	Learner as knowledge producer
3. Knowledge transmission and replication	Knowledge as discoverable, navigation, critical discernment
4. Long term memory	Devices as "cognitive prostheses"—social memory and immediate calculation
5. Knowledge as fact, correctly executable theorem, definition	Knowledge as judgment, argumentation, reasoning
6. Cognitive focus	Focus on knowledge representations, "works" (ergative)
7. Individual minds	Social, dialogical minds
8. Long cycle feedback, retrospective and judgmental (summative assessment)	Short cycle feedback, prospective and constructive (reflexivity, recursive feedback, formative assessment)



References

e-Learning Ecologies

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