

Peer to Peer Learning – Open and Anywhere

Laura White and Alan Webb

Introduction by Lisa



Lisa Introduces GBSN



Lisa Introduces Laura and Alan

Today's Discussion

- Social tools for peer to peer learning
- Resources for online, free, and creative commons licensed educational materials
- An example which combines the two - "Social Innovation in Education" and "Women as Social Innovators" Citizen Circles
- Discussion

Alan begins

What is Peer to Peer Learning?

First, discussion: What do you think peer-to-peer learning is?

(round robin, everyone invited to raise hand or reply to chat)

We'll explore this in more detail today together.

Poll #1 & 2

First two polls.

- 1) What is your highest level of experience with peer to peer learning?
 - I have participated in a class where the students were asked to help propose topics for the class's syllabus.
 - I have participated in a class where the students were asked to help teach or facilitate meetings of the class.
 - I have participated in a course that was designed and facilitated by all of the learners together.
 - What is a “teacher?” I have not heard that term before.
- 2) What country today has the highest percentage of adults peer to peer learners?
 - United States
 - Sweden
 - Brazil
 - China

(Sweden)

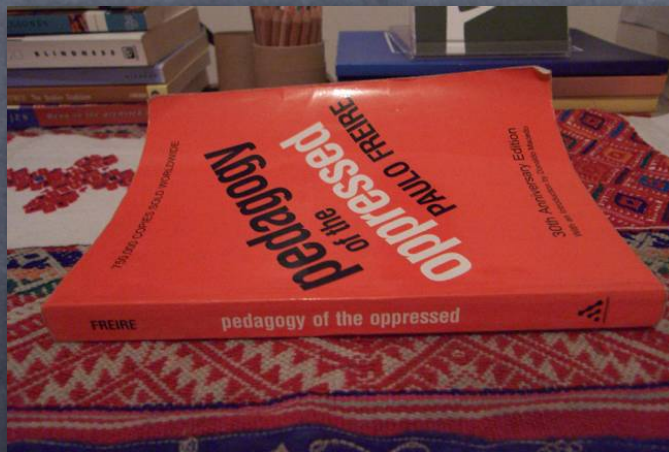
Does anyone know how they achieve this? (asked verbally and ask for hands raised or answer by chat)

Study Circles, student-led courses, and more



SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE

- A world free from poverty and injustice



The way they achieve this is through study circles, and they weren't the first to do it, in fact, but they are the best at using it of any country in the world at the moment.

- Sweden - 2/3 of adults in their life, 1/3 any given year.
- Highlander - civil rights leaders like Rosa Parks
- Chautauqua - 700,000 people per year earning four year degrees from their homes across the mid-west at its peak in 1915, mostly women
- DeCal - 6,600 students so far this semester, and going every semester since 1965
- Can't go without mention Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Friere and without mentioning the importance of peer to peer learning in religion from as mainstream as bible studies in the U.S. to Baha'i, who rely exclusively on this form of learning

Oldest Form of Learning



In fact, the roots are even deeper... it's the oldest way we learn.

Key Characteristics

- Everyone a teacher, everyone a learner
- Plan (syllabus) is set designed by group
- Focus on what you can learn from each other's experiences and any resources you can find.
- A common format: 6–8 weeks, 1–3 hour meetings, small groups (3–15)

So what is a study circle, and why is it so effective?

- Emphasis on facilitator versus teacher
- Hardest part of peer-to-peer is that the syllabus is designed and created by each other. This is one of the most challenging parts because it is a deeply seated habit to think of syllabi as fixed.
- Scaffold from real life experience, don't import knowledge without grounding it
- Manageable chunks of commitment. Regular scheduling helps so that people can put it into their calendar and plan around it for many weeks in a row.

Old Meets New



But there's something else going on here, and another reason this topic is so hot today.

Peer study has always had a boost by new media of exchanging information, and the same thing is happening today. Just like Chautauqua was made possible by the availability of books that people could use to learn in small groups everywhere, technology isn't enough. We also need the appropriate social technology for groups to be able to take advantage of all of these resources and from learning from each other. But the availability of resources is exploding, which is a boon for anyone that wants to learn in small groups with their peers.

- There have never before in history have there been so many resources both online and offline. You can search using materials released by institutions on sites like Academic Earth, or courses created by small online study groups on sites like Peer-to-Peer University.
- You don't need anyone's permission to use these resources because they are all free and creative commons licensed. They can be used both inside and outside the traditional university framework, and any way you want to. Though often you cannot earn a profit from using these resources for a commercial use.

How Big is Open Learning?

• 180,000

• 45,000

• \$1,000,000

• 20%

• 30%

And how big is that movement exactly? Here are some anchors for you.

- Number of students taking courses from Open University. One in Five MBAs in UK.
- Number of people every day using China's Department of Education's Big Sky Initiative
- The salary of some of the best teachers on MegaStudy in South Korea
- Percent of U.S. Higher Ed Students participating in an online course in 2007
- Annual growth rate of the online education business, including online textbooks

Poll #3 & 4

Who is the largest user group of MIT OpenCourseWare to date.

- Educators
- Students
- Self Learners

(Self-learners – 43%)

For which group was MIT OpenCourseWare primarily designed and intended, originally?

- Educators
- Students
- Self Learners

(Educators)



“Hybrid Learning”



So what you should take from this is that online sharing of resources and connecting of students online is very big and getting bigger at an accelerating rate. But all of us know that this misses something that is important to learning, which is why today we're not just talking with you today about content resources, but also social resources to help you connect with learners face-to-face.

- DOE Metastudy on hybrid learning
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation annual letter, this is the year for innovations in combining face-to-face with online educational resources.

Empathy

Creativity



Entrepreneurship

Cooperation

There is an important reason for that. There is nothing stopping you after today from going to iTunesU or Folk Semantic and finding some great videos and learning something on your own. But if you really want to take advantage of all of those resources out there, using centuries old social technology like study circles to use those resources offers a totally higher-order experience.

- 1) It is really only in that context that you get the social support you have in a college level course at a university.
- 2) It is really only in that context that you can develop deeper ways of thinking and character, things like cooperation and empathy. We all know that learning isn't just about downloading knowledge from experts, but understanding yourself and your tribe better. Th








Laura and Alan have been working with groups we call citizen circles which combine all of these resources we have been talking about... free, online, opencourseware; our social networks (e.g. our friends, coworkers, teammates, etc.); social organizing tools, etc.

Tell the story of Social Innovation in Education and how it grew into the next citizen circles, Women as Social Innovators.

Highlight other Citizen Circles.

So feel free to work with us on your own citizen circles, which are both local and face-to-face, and also to spread your resources, experiences, and successes with others around the world when you do.

Current course list

Course Name	Organiser	Course Status
<u>Conflict Resolution</u> This citizen circle will introduce participants to conflict resolution theory and practices. + Show more details	<u>emilyludwinmiller</u> 	Registration now closed (course is full)
<u>Education Politics in America</u> Learn about education politics and how to navigate your own investigations in the subject matter! + Show more details	<u>EmilyKC</u> 	Apply
<u>Local Open Govt. Innovation</u> How to bring transparency, public participation, and collaboration to your local government. This is an international course! + Show more details	<u>Lucas Cioffi</u> 	Apply
<u>Sustainability Studio</u> Create a local project with support from your peers and guest speakers - and get recognition for your impact! + Show more details	<u>cgeith</u> 	Apply
<u>Women as Social Innovators</u> What are the unique strengths and challenges that women face as social innovators? + Show more details	<u>jkb2e</u> 	Apply

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HUB DC

Local Open Govt. Innovation

How to bring transparency, public participation, and collaboration to your local government.

This is an international course!

+ Show more details

Lucas Clo



P2PU

Sustainability Studio

Create a local project with support from your peers and guest speakers - and get recognition for your impact!

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cgeith



Apply

Women as Social Innovators

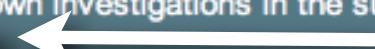
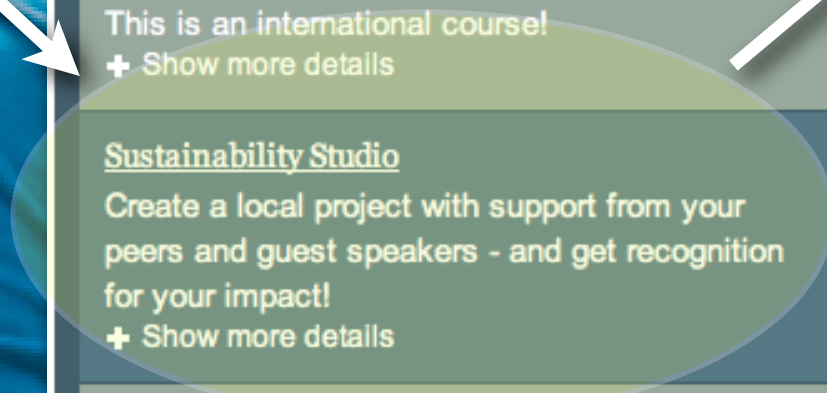
What are the unique strengths and challenges that women face as social innovators?

+ Show more details

jkb2e



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Other Tools

Resources

- Metasearch Databases (e.g. Connexions, iTunesU)
- Subject-focused silos (e.g. Khan Academy)
- You can learn using any media (TED talks, NPR Podcasts, Vimeo, Youtube)
- Teaching Company
- Flat World Knowledge
- Don't forget books!

Social Tools

- Open Study, Grockit
- NIXTY, Moodle, Sakai
- Google and Yahoo groups
- Meetup.com
- Facebook
- Skillshare
- School of Everything
- Don't forget your friends!

Either way, in addition, there is so much out there you can use to get yourself started. Remember to think about both the content resources, and the social resources at your disposal.

Discussion

How do you think you could use peer-to-peer learning professional and personally?

(Round robin, each participant invited to share their ideas. Lisa is timer)