

Abstracts

Bennett, Melanie – MEd DE program

Title

A Critical Review of Boissonneault, J. (1996). Bilingue/francophone, Franco-Ontarien/Canadien français : choix des marques d'identification chez les étudiants francophones. *Revue du Nouvel-Ontario* : Institut franco-ontarien. Sudbury. (pp. 174-192).

Rationale/Background

Since English is used by many Franco-Ontarians, the researcher asked whether the cultural identification as bilingual is a transient step in the assimilation process and Anglicisation of the minority.

Purpose

The researcher's aim was to determine how language preferences and their actual usage influence self-identification and perceptions of language and sociolinguistic groups.

Type of Literature Review

My review involves a critical analysis of Boissonneault's basic descriptive research involving a sample of Franco-Ontarian youth studying in bilingual post-secondary institutions in Ontario. My review concurs with the research of other Franco-Ontarian scholars and government publications on literacy.

Results

Those who identify as Francophone offer a richer perspective of bilingualism. Engaged members of the community have made the transition from the cultural identity of *Canadien français* to the structural identity of Franco-Ontarian, according to political sensitivities and different valorisation of borders. However, Boissonneault's data reveals that 23% of respondents identify as Francophone while 74% identify as bilingual

Implications

A new problem arises: A minority community wishes that its claim for French language services and specialised educational programmes be taken seriously yet their youth have been opting to use English and have been identifying as bilingual instead of Francophone.

Bennett, Melanie – MEd DE program

Title

Theory, Feminism and Educating the Oppressed: Choosing a Methodology for the Study of a DE Project Designed for the Girls at Adruta Children's Home

Rationale/Background

Western education can be considered prestigious and more desirable than regional education. This outlook is problematic because it involves hierarchies and problems relating to access. My interest with regard to DE and Indian orphan girls is to determine whether receiving a Canadian provincial high school diploma could significantly alter the education and professional lives of these girls.

Purpose

The desired outcomes of orphaned girls obtaining a Canadian high school credential could involve social transformation, women's empowerment, and transcending of class barriers. The very fact that these children have lower literacy rates is related to gender discrimination.

Method of implementation

Feminist social scientists must work in collaboration with local agents of change in order to challenge traditions that indigenous change makers are seeking to eliminate. Qualitative research involving fieldwork, participant observation, ethnography, and interviews is appropriate in this feminist study. However, contrasting feminist research as qualitative and subjective and traditional research as positivist reaffirms gender stereotypes. Traditional quantitative methods should be included, such as comparing the academic scores and the post-academic impact of the Canadian credential in terms of job offers and professional promotions, and in examining the education's impact on marital status and self-sufficiency.

Potential Results

A Canadian DE programme might provide an opportunity to transcend class barriers and restrictive international borders and provide more freedom of choice and freedom of movement.

Implications

Delicacy is required in order to avoid the hierarchical relationship that feminist methodology seeks to dismiss and to avoid a European-Asian hierarchical relationship which could be a symbolic relic of colonialism and imperialism. Feminist research sees participants as experts or authorities on their own experience.

Chang, William – MSc IS program

Title

Augmented Reality for Location-based and Adaptive Mobile Learning

Rationale/Background

Ubiquitous learning with a Mobile Augmented Reality System (MARS) that delivers on-demand instructional services requires well engineered system/software architecture. Target applications generated from the architecture require instructional capabilities for understanding individual learning strengths while tailoring empirically evaluated pedagogical techniques to enhance learning performance.

Purpose

The main purpose of this research is the Location-Based Content Delivery along with Augmented Reality display. The most important functionality is to provide learning contents

according to the learner's current profile and location. The relevant learning contents in learner's vicinity will automatically be presented while learners walk in the learning area.

Method of implementation

(1) Authentication Module: To identify who the learner is and what profile should be included, also the default 6 Degree of Freedom information of the Device will be collected. (2) 5R Adaptive Module: The core backend database and system algorithm, which responsible to decide which content should be delivered. (3) AR Interactive Learning Module: The main user interface design and development as well as the AR content representation.

Results

(1) Estimate the learner's current location by a lone or a composite positioning approach
(2) Perform location-dependent content queries to retrieve the relevant learning contents in the vicinity; (3) Compose the location-dependent learning contents into a personalized presentation; (4) Deliver the presentation to the learner using Augmented Reality.

Implications

There are three main research contributions: First, this research provides an extended definition of Augmented Reality instead of using the Marker. Second, this project provides a leading research in Augmented Reality. We introduce various Reality Object Tagging systems based on object identification. Second, we categorize and analyze three different ways of Describing Tag Information that attached on RLOs. Third we introduce the emerging mobile device's HIC interfaces, which allow learner to interact with the real world. At last, this research provides a location-based mark-less approach to accomplish Augmented Reality on Mobile device, which doesn't require as large computing resources.

This research Thesis is currently in progress.

Cherneski, Jennifer – DBA program

Title

Corporate Social Relationships: The Role of Sensemaking Regarding Internal Stakeholder Interpretation of Micro-, Meso- and Macro-Level Influences of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Rationale/Background

To date, research on corporate social responsibility (CSR) has largely focused on external stakeholders at a macro-impact level rather than on internal stakeholders at a micro-organizational level (Powell, 2007). Viewing CSR in the context of an internal stakeholder sensemaking process is a relatively new and unaddressed construct. This paper reviews the dynamic and social process of CSR development in organizations through the theoretical frameworks of sensemaking (Weick, 1995) and social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979).

Purpose

Currently, there is a gap in the literature regarding how CSR is socially constructed operationally. This review identifies this gap and offers suggestions on how it might be filled.

Type of Literature Review

The type of literature review is Conceptual.

Results/Findings

A micro-macro-meso level of analysis is an appropriate lens that will provide insight regarding individuals supporting and participating in CSR activities. This paper provides a review of the literature to shed light on what we already know and in what directions future research should be taken.

Implications

CSR is increasingly being considered a social asset that will give an organization a competitive advantage in the long run. Understanding the impact of corporate social relationships when it comes to CSR will enable organizations to better appreciate how to operationalize CSR by considering the engagement of internal stakeholders who are at the heart of this process.

References

- Powell, S. M. (2007). Organizational marketing, identity and the creative brand. *Journal of Brand Management*, 15(1), 41-56.
- Tajfel, H., & Turner, J. C. (1979). An integrative theory of intergroup conflict. In W.G. Austin & S. Worchel (Eds.), *The social psychology of intergroup relations* (pp. 33-47). Monterey, CA: Brooks/Cole
- Weick, K. (1995). *Sensemaking in Organizations*. London: Sage.

Chu, Annet – MA IS program

Title

Classroom Management through Self-Management

Rationale/Background

Classroom management is fundamental to an instructor's success in the classroom. Regardless of the age of the learners disruptive behaviours continue to occur in the classroom. While some disruptions are minor, they should not be overlooked as such disruptions will cost the facilitator's confidence and students' learning opportunities. The proposed research project is similar to many self-management projects described in Tharp and Watson's (2007) *Self-Directed Behaviour* in which the researchers assessed themselves after generating a baseline and incorporating strategies that allowed desired behaviours to occur through regular practice.

Research Question

What strategies are required for adult educators to maintain classroom management in an interactive classroom?

Methodology

For eight weeks a facilitator will execute four specified interventions (seating arrangement, lighting arrangement, spatial pressure, and visual cue) in her classroom.

Results/Findings

Research is in progress. These interventions will successfully reduce classroom disruptions (learners' inattentiveness throughout lessons and second language learners speaking in their native languages) by more than 50%.

Implications

Research will begin upon approval.

Chu, Annet – MA IS program

Title

The Willingness to Change and to Disclose Through the Written Word (Poster)

Rationale/Background

Writing for personal development involves writing reflective exercises. The process serves the purpose of helping writers to understand their lives and to recreate themselves through writing and reading their thoughts. With this type of writing activity, the writers are in control of their writing. Although the words are written on paper, there is always the opportunity for the writers to add or to change the content. The changes that they make in writing may be a reflection of the changes that they wish to see in their lives.

Purpose

The purpose of the presentation is to demonstrate how writing for personal development can help people maximize the potentials of therapy.

Type of Literature Review

This presentation will explore analysis from health practitioners, autobiographers, and psychologists. The research focus on an individual's personal writing for therapeutic purposes.

Results

Writing is not a substitute for therapy, but writing is a critical tool in initiating and maintaining a therapeutic practice.

Implications

The success of writing for personal development as part of therapy lies in the willingness of the writers. The willingness to change and the willingness to disclose are the primary factors in the writing process. If these parameters are not met, the writers may not achieve the full benefits of writing for personal development.

Clemens, Clayton – MSc IS program

Title

Toward a Model of Writing Competence

Rationale/Background

Competence is the goal of education. Academic programs attempt to instill students with knowledge to enhance their skills in various disciplines. Systems for competence assessment have remained the same over the years consisting of a feedback loop in which students study, submit assignments and receive grades. There are few ways to assess how the student develops their competencies as they work.

Research Question

What are the factors that affect student competence in writing and how are they related?

Methodology

In certain disciplines software can assist us in moving towards models of competence that rely on continual collection of data rather than just an iterative feedback loop. Techniques in natural language processing, in particular, can help provide this continual competence development data for students learning to write compositions in English. The MI-Writer software package records data on the keystroke level and uses NLP to gather metrics on the user's competence. Thus far, a small number of competence factors have been derived from sample data and compared.

Results/Findings

Operating on a small amount of sample data and competence factors, a basis has been formed for the causal modeling of writing competence. Further research and testing is required as is speculation on more potential factors and real-world data.

Implications

Identifying and formalizing the factors that affect writing competence could change how educators approach pedagogy. A more effective and complete method of teaching English could be derived from this research once it is complete.

Cochrane, Glen – MEd DE program

Title

Open Language Support and the Classification of Learning Autonomy Systems (LAS)

Rationale/Background

Learner Autonomy in modern distance education practice has the potential to expand easier than ever, more efficiently than ever. Yet, the adoption of an autonomous approach to learning cannot happen without promotion and guidance. This is especially relevant to students and institutions involved in cross-border contexts and foreign language situations. Access to target language is now abundant, but what should learners do with all of this information? And how can they funnel topic-specific, high feedback support? The current distance educational setting has created

potential for a method of language support high in learner autonomy and open to all levels of teachers and students, blurring the boundary between the two.

Purpose

To provide cross-border educational contexts with a Learner Autonomy System that will provide for them support, a mode of study and language skill development.

Method of implementation

Distributed across the internet, as determined by the users themselves.

Results/Findings

(ongoing)

Implications

In developing this project an autonomous system of learning has been identified that works in contrast to the more common Learning Management Systems (LMS). Whereas LMS run in a top-down manner, in which content and activities (and even learners) are managed by the instructor, Learning Autonomy Systems (LAS) work from the bottom-up, ever seeking to shift a larger portion of the control onto the learner. The above mentioned language learning system is used as an example to detail the characteristics of LAS.

Contreras, Carlos – PhD in Applied Mathematics

Title

Model comparison criteria in histone H1 binding mechanism models

Rationale/Background

Histone H1 are proteins found inside the cell nucleus that package and order DNA. This arrangement is achieved by the interactions between the histone H1 and the chromatin structure.

Research Question

What is the process by which histone H1 package and order DNA?

Methodology

The interactions between histone H1 and DNA can be modelled using reaction-diffusion linear equations. We introduce nine models that account for three populations of histone H1 that depend on the intensity of the association of histone H1 to the chromatin structure; diffusing freely inside the nucleus cell, weakly bound and strongly bound to the chromatin structure. The nine models differ in the configuration of the different binding interactions. The models are nested in the sense of complex models leading to simpler models. We use two model comparison criteria, namely Akaike Information Criteria and the Likelihood Ratio Test to compare the different models. To achieve this comparison we fit the models to experimental data that comes from Fluorescence Recovery After Photobleaching (FRAP), a fluorescence microscopy technique used to measure the mobility of biomolecules within living cells.

Results/Findings

Four models showing two types of binding and unbinding processes could describe feasible binding mechanisms of histone H1.

Implications

Experimentalists can estimate biophysical parameters that describe the binding mechanism of histone H1 using a three-populations model.

De Waard, Inge – MEd DE program

Title

Literature review: in search for parallel learning characteristics between MOOCs and mLearning

Rationale/Background

This literature review looks at two types of new educational learning/teaching formats to investigate a possible diversification in social learner interaction. The two learning/teaching formats are: 1) the open, online course which embeds social media as a way to enhance peer-to-peer interactions, specifically the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) format, and 2) mobile learning (mLearning).

Purpose

The purpose of this literature review is to come to a central research question that can be used by the author as a basis for distance education research investigating unexplored ground combining MOOCs and mLearning.

Type of Literature Review

Academic literature review leading up to unexplored research

Results

A thorough link between mLearning and the course format MOOC's, has not yet been explored as this literature review indicated. Looking at the narratives, common topics of interest and strengths can be identified. These common grounds and their potential for contemporary learning/teaching benefits support the idea to explore the hypothesis that a MOOC format is a beneficial teaching/learning format that – when combined with mLearning can result in an improved learning environment.

Implications

The above mentioned literature shows that both MOOCs and mLearning seem to have similar learning similarities pointing towards beneficial social learner interactions. There are a number of research projects that can emerge from this literature review, each researching the effect on one of the parts highlighted in the review.

Enns, Brenda – MN program

Title

Exploring Microsoft OneNote for Managing Qualitative Research Data (Virtual Poster)

Rationale/Background

Qualitative researchers need to efficiently manage large amounts of varied information. One thing that is generally agreed upon is that qualitative data analysis relies on human interaction with data, which cannot be replaced by computer programs. However, the ability to effectively manage data without the use of technology is unlikely. Thus, the researcher sets out on a quest for reliable, flexible, easy-to-use, and hopefully inexpensive information management tools. In this quest, they often rely on discussions with colleagues who have used certain programs for research data management. One such program worthy of discussion is Microsoft OneNote, an electronic notebook program that can be adapted to the needs of the qualitative researcher. This program is included in the MSOffice suite of programs, and is highly compatible with other MSOffice programs including Word, Excel, and Outlook. OneNote allows for multimedia embedding, live recording of audio, free movement of text, freehand drawing, linking to other documents, and almost unlimited organizational options.

Purpose

From paper and pencil methods to expensive, complex computer programs, how can one decide on the best option for their needs?

Results

A video of the actual program being used is incorporated into this presentation to demonstrate the potential of this program for use by qualitative researchers.

Enns, Brenda – MN program

Title

Professional Identity Development and Baccalaureate Nursing Education: An Integrative Review (Virtual Poster)

Rationale/Background

Nursing education should facilitate the metamorphosis of a student from lay person to a supportive, competent registered nurse with a positive professional nursing identity. In order to best facilitate the development of this new identity educators must understand the process behind it.

Purpose

In this integrative review the concept of professional identity development with a focus on the experience of the baccalaureate nursing student was examined.

Type of Literature Review

An integrative review of 21 empirical and theoretical articles meeting the criteria for inclusion was conducted. These articles were subjected to constant comparative analysis and a second literature search was conducted to clarify emerging themes.

Results

Final analysis revealed the major theme of VALUES and three subthemes: (1) Professional Identity as

Perceived By Self, (2) Professional Identity as Perceived By Others, and (3) Professional Socialization and the Realities of Practice. From this review it is proposed that the foundation of a healthy professional identity lies in having strong core nursing values, being committed to enacting these values in practice, and being supported in upholding these values and enacting this commitment.

Implications

The need for educators to engage in open and honest dialogue with students about the realities of practice, including barriers to the enacting of nursing values, was apparent. Moreover, the urgent need to transform nursing work environments into ones where students and nurses are able to enact their nursing values was identified.

Eveleigh, Darren/Gibson, Joel/Rondeau, Robin/Tan, Qing – MSc IS program

Title

Cloud Computing: IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS Challenges

Rationale/Background

Cloud computing is a service oriented architecture. As with most services, businesses need to understand what their customers expect, and in turn do their best to meet those expectations.

Purpose

The common customer concerns in the cloud environment are security, privacy, and availability of data. What are the challenges that businesses may face when adopting a cloud based service?

Type of Literature Review

Various sources were accessed to complete this narrative literature review. Research findings, perspectives, and considerations related to the challenges that an enterprise can face when adopting cloud computing technologies are discussed.

Results

Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) can be defined as the use of servers, storage, and virtualization to enable utility like services for customers. Platform-as-a-Service(PaaS) providers create the capability for a consumer to deploy applications, written in programming languages and tools supported by the provider, onto a cloud infrastructure. Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) is a software delivery model that allows consumers of a service access to applications using a thin client or web browser.

Implications

IaaS faces challenges in regards to security and privacy. The key challenges in PaaS development include restriction to programming languages and development tools made available by providers, multi-tenancy security concerns, reliance on Internet connectivity, and the need to learn new languages, tools, and APIs. SaaS also involves challenges including security concerns and adjustments budgetary processes.

Fakinlede, Charity – MEd DE graduate

Title

The Level of Communication Technology Usage by Distance Education Students in Nigeria

Rationale/Background

Higher education enrolments in Sub-Saharan African universities have grown considerably over the years. There are huge shortfalls in tertiary education provision, as higher education systems have been overstretched. However, distance education institutions in Nigeria have not been able to increase accessibility to higher education through modern communication technologies due to slow pace of communication technology adoption in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The research study adopted two research questions:

- 1) What is the level of communication technology usage by distance education students in Nigeria?
- 2) What are the perceptions of distance education students to distance education delivery methods in Nigeria?

Research Methodology

This concurrent mixed methods study used quantitative data by convenience sampling from two DE institutions in Lagos; data were analyzed by SPSS. The qualitative data by purposive sampling were from three distance education students, categorized and presented as significant statements.

Research Results

The final results of this research study reported high communication technology usage based on the high level of smart phone ownership and Internet browsing, high level of personal computer usage, high level of internet social networking, and high positive response for online learning; among other positive indicators.

Implications

The research findings show there is strong evidence that distance education students are highly enthusiastic and are ready for e-learning in Nigeria. Consequently, these research results have implications on professional developments by faculty members, institutional improvements by decision-makers and the future of e-learning adoption in Nigeria.

Ferguson, Philip – DBA program

Title

Distal factors and their effect on employees' performance appraisal ratings and remuneration: A ratee's perspective.

Rationale/Background

Distal factors and their possible impact on employee performance appraisals (PA) remains largely under researched even though calls from scholars thrive to investigate whether these factors could play a role in the PA process. This study investigates three distal factors posited as being likely the most influential.

Research Question

When the macro-economy is “good” or “poor”, how will the stage in the organizational life cycle and perceived organizational performance affect employee self-assessment of their performance ratings and pay, given that their individual performance has not changed from prior year?

Methodology

A quasi-experimental methodology will be undertaken on MBA alumni utilizing scenario analysis. A subject will be given one of eight scenarios to read and then respond to a number of questions pertaining to PA ratings and merit pay. In addition, in order to quantify the efficacy of situational manipulation, questions have been imported and modified from extant studies to fit this research setting.

Results/Findings

At this point it is expected that employee self-assessed ratings and merit pay will not remain stable. Specifically, ratings (under some scenarios) will change with merit pay varying in the same direction but with greater magnitude. A pilot test is being planned for later in calendar 2012 with actual research slated for calendar 2013.

Implications

This research will begin to fill a research void as extant studies tend to focus on proximal factors alone.

Fischer, Megan – MC program

Title

Moral Distress in Correctional Mental Health Professionals

Rationale/Background

Ethical and moral issues in correctional mental health settings are complex and challenging. The moral climate in correctional settings is shaped by the competing demands of custody and care. As evidenced in the literature, ethical conflict is intrinsic to correctional settings. Correctional settings, because of the competing demands of custody and care, provide a particularly significant environment to explore the phenomenon of moral distress.

Moral distress is a concept that captures a range of experiences that an individual may experience when morally constrained. Components of moral distress prevalent in the current nursing literature are: (a) the embodied effects and anguish of moral distress, (b) awareness of and sensitivity to a moral problem, and (c) perception of correct moral action. The limited

current research on moral distress has not yet expanded to correctional mental health professionals.

Research Question

The purpose of this study is to explore the lived experience of moral distress among mental health professionals who previously provided services within a correctional setting.

Methodology

Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Results/Findings

Preliminary findings as research is still in progress.

Implications

Presentation of my preliminary findings, obtained through interpretative phenomenological analysis, will highlight common and challenging ethical issues confronting correctional mental health professionals, identify situations that support and constrain ethical practice, and outline rich, thick descriptions of the physiological, emotional, and social experiences of moral distress.

Gauvreau, Sarah - Med DE program

Title

Online Professional Skills Workshop: A Graduate Student's Perspective

Rationale/Background

The expectations on graduates are beginning to shift, with a greater emphasis on developing the graduates both personally and professionally to support their individual academic to work-life transition (Canadian Association of Graduate Schools, 2008). It is up to each university to provide such professional skill development; however, few universities appear to provide graduate students with professional development skills workshops in partnership with academic programs (Hurst, Cleveland-Innes, Hawranik & Gauvreau, 2011). There is a large gap in the literature that addresses the need for professional skills development offered to graduate students, most specifically, those who are studying via distance.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to describe the experiences of online graduate students who participated in an online professional skills workshop offered synchronously through Athabasca University.

Method of implementation

The phenomenology approach is selected for the purpose of describing what online graduate students have in common as they experienced professional development workshops at an open university. The objective is to reduce the individual experiences of professional skill education to describe a universal essence (Creswell, 2007).

Results

The overall essence of the phenomenon of the online graduates, who participated in this study, had positive experiences with the professional studies workshops and felt that they took with them heightened skills that they lacked before.

Implications

For graduate students to complement their disciplinary expertise and compete in the exceedingly difficult knowledge economy, tertiary institutions need to offer professional skills development for its students.

Haghighat, Kevin - MSc IS program

Title

To Study or To Learn? A Critical Review of Social Media Infused Academic Experience.

Rationale/Background

As post-secondary institution educators, we often find students asking, “How much do we need to memorize?” and find indications of memorization with disregard for the underlying context. Upon further examination, I found that today’s students have a very different understanding of “studying” and “learning” concepts and how social media impacts their daily lives and education.

Purpose

I will discuss the disconnect between how teachers and students perceive and define concepts of “studying” and “learning”, as well as changes in trends and practices of students’ pursuit of knowledge due to social media integration.

Type of Literature Review

I will review articles on studying and learning and refer to ongoing research at Athabasca University’s iCore group, Learning Traces team and other universities. I will present personal interviews with post-secondary institutes’ students and professors and their responses to a set of questions regarding studying, learning, and social media.

Results

I will conclude by presenting guidelines for students and teachers which will enhance the quality of the academic experience, emphasizing the need for educators to embrace the transparency of knowledge across the Internet and encourage candid student feedback on how they study and learn, bringing focus back on the context of knowledge rather than content memorization.

Implications

With the rapid growth of social media, educators need to re-evaluate teaching and assessment methods, in order to create dynamic learning environments. This means teaching is no longer a potentially repetitive method of knowledge presentation and standardized assessments, but rather a dynamic and ever mutating profession.

Harris, Teresa Rosemary - MN program

Title

Transitioning New Graduate Nurses: Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reasons

Rationale/Background

18% to 60% of nurses leave the profession within the first year of practice. Graduate nurses need to feel safe and supported. The future of nursing is based on the successful recruitment and retention of new graduate nurses.

Goal

To be successful in recruiting, retaining and transitioning new graduate nurses to the unit.

Purpose

- To provide a quality orientation plan to transition new nurse graduates into competent professional nurses.
- To tell my successful journey transitioning 14 new graduate nurses to my 42 bed rural hospital in New Brunswick.
- To challenge nurse leaders to make the investment in time and effort in the supportive process of transitioning the new graduate nurses to our units.

Method of Implementation

Reviewing recent literature, travelling, creating learning packets as well as engaging unit nurses are preparations completed for new graduates. Resume, interview, and references are components of the hiring process. Learning services learning, precepting for six weeks, mentoring, and communicating with Nurse Manager are mechanisms of the orientation plan.

Results

Timing is everything, everything changes, and go with what feels right are lessons learned. 13 of 14 former new hires are now the nurses who are taking on nursing student attending workshops on mentorship and contributing to the unit work.

Implications

Challenging nurse leaders to invest in transitioning new graduate nurses the right thing to do for the right reasons...our nursing future.

Hawke, Samantha – MN program

Title

Emotionally Driven Chronic Pain (EDCP) in the Youth (Poster)

Rationale/Background

The concept of EDCP derives from evidence demonstrating the existence of similar brain regions inextricably linking emotional and physical pain responses. With 1.5 million young Canadian adults experiencing chronic pain and the prevalence increasing, compounded by stigmatization, awareness of this concept is critical as is improving health outcomes for these individuals.

Purpose

Increasing awareness of the connection between emotional and physical pain is pivotal in addressing this significant health concern. This literature review and discussion aims to potentiate not only recognition of this concept, but to also facilitate applicable and effective collaborative treatment approaches and entice further inquiry into this prevalent health problem.

Type of Literature Review

An Integrative Literature review directed examination of research that reviewed, critiqued and synthesized representative literature on the concept of EDCP in an integrative way such that a new framework and perspectives on this topic could be generated.

Results

Evidence demonstrates the physiological existence of this concept. Western Medicine ideology offers evidence based information and can facilitate collaborative management. Holism is supported by evidence presented in studies examining the placebo effect, varying psychological reactions in multi-personalities and psychoneuroimmunology.

Implications

An integrative mindset encompassing these two approaches serves to address EDCP and subsequently improve resource utilization, reduce chronic pain treatment costs, address stigmatization of the youth surrounding pain and induce self-empowering advocacy. The potential for providing effective treatment is possible and further inquiry into this concept is warranted.

Hayes, Lesley – DBA

Title

Entrepreneurial Learning in Peer Support Groups

Rationale/Background:

8,700 members of the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) in 137 countries are participating in mastermind style entrepreneurial peer support groups, but no research has been conducted to validate what works and what doesn't work.

Research Question:

What are the routines, behaviors, belief systems, language protocols and other structures that support high performance forum group development and stability, which result in individual entrepreneurial leadership growth and learning?

Methodology:

Mixed Methods study using a quantitative dataset of posts from 2,100 forum respondents to test theory and relationships between constructs of trust, group cohesion, presentation quality, discussion quality and leadership. Together these constructs explain over 60% of the variance in our dependent variable. Qualitative case studies of a small selection of forum groups will explore these relationships in depth and with some of the newer groups and longitudinal data may potentially even help establish causality.

Results/Findings:

Initial analysis of the quantitative data indicated that group demographics and location had little impact on member satisfaction with the group performance. A very interesting interaction was found between the quality of the discussion based on its structure and the quality of presentations, related to content.

Implications:

The fields of entrepreneurial learning and entrepreneurial leadership are both very new. As all entrepreneurial leadership occurs in groups, gaining self-awareness and insight into leadership behaviors and the power of peer support is very valuable to developing entrepreneurial success. This knowledge has already changed practices on the EO related to the Forum, Mentorship and Leadership programs.

Jones, David A. – MSc IS program

Title

Educational Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game for Teaching Youth Finance

Rationale/Background

It has been stated that people need to improve their knowledge of finances. Most opinions on teaching finances state that education begins with children – the younger the better. While many educational programs exist, few are targeted at children.

Purpose

This research project was designed to create an educational and fun game to teach younger children about money.

Research Questions

- Is the usability of the proposed game suitable for its players?
- Does the proposed game engage players?
- Does the proposed game increase user's knowledge toward financial issues?
- Is the game equally effective for male and female participants?

Methodology

Participants take a pre-test to measure knowledge and then play the game. Once completed a post test is taken. A questionnaire was used to determine attitudes to games as well. The pre-test and post-test results are compared [repeated measures] to measure learning. Independent t-tests using data from the questionnaire was done to measure factors such as gender and game playing experience differences.

Results/Findings

The results of the repeated measures test are promising, showing a definite increase in learning of financial topics by participants. Results of the independent t-tests were not as promising. There were only 16 participants in the test so many of the hypotheses to be tested could not be proven.

Implications

Since the primary hypothesis is promising, it shows that teaching using a game could be successful. Further development and improved testing may provide more positive results.

Kalmar, Steve – MSc IS program

Title

Increasing Student Programming Competency

Rationale/Background

Students are accustomed to receiving immediate responses to questions, text messages and e-mail. Instructors may find it difficult to meet this expectation. During the coding process of an assignment is when feedback proves to be most valuable. Once the assignment has been submitted many of these error messages have been resolved and therefore the instructor is not able to provide constructive feedback on errors received. The main goal of this research is to develop a method of providing students with detailed and timely feedback.

Research Question

There are some key questions that this research will attempt to answer, including does this new method improve student performance in achieving desired competencies? Can these lessons be applied to other levels beyond the introductory level computer science courses?

Methodology/Results

The research will be conducted using dashboards to display relevant information to various stakeholders. This information will be collected using the MILES plugin for eclipse. The plugin works by capturing information pertaining to design coding and debugging from the students while they are working on their assignments.

Implications

This research has three implications; first, that personalized and timely feedback will have a positive effect on attrition; second, that data collected from the plugin can indicate to instructors which topics they should focus more on teaching; and third, that data from all students in a

course over a period of time can be used to ensure that students are achieving the desired competency in the course.

King, Brad – DBA program

Title

Dissertation Research Proposal: A Discursive Analysis of the Identity Construction of a Family Firm

Rationale/Background

The majority of businesses worldwide are family firms. Some are small, others are large; some are privately-held, others are publicly-traded but family-controlled. Regardless, some hide their familial nature while others actively promote it. Research into this phenomenon has not yet been published. As a precursor to my DBA dissertation proposal, this paper includes a literature review as well as a description of my proposed research framework.

Purpose

The purpose of this research is to examine how a business constructs and maintains its family firm identity.

Method of implementation

This research project will be an intensive case study, using narrative research and discourse analysis from an interpretive perspective.

Results

The end result of this paper will be the substantive portion of my doctoral dissertation proposal which I expect to defend within 3 months of the conference.

Implications

Discourse analysis is rare in family business research. However, a discursive perspective has been used to contribute to theoretical debates in other streams of literature and I expect that my proposed dissertation research will contribute to the advancement of theory in several areas of family business research. Most directly, I expect the explication of the processes by which a family firm identity is constructed will contribute to the literature that explores the definition of the family firm and the nascent scholarly inquiry into the marketing of the family business as a brand.

Lazuardi, Lareza – MSc IS program

Title

Hospital Bed Management Software

Rationale/Background

In most hospitals, capacity management is a reactive and inefficient process resulting in unnecessary hours spent on diversion; capacity exclusively monitored by bed control, with no efficient and effective means of communicating hospital-wide occupancy levels with departments

This is an ideal opportunity for information technology to step up to the plate and excel.

Purpose

Overcoming communication breakdown which to communicate occupancy levels across the hospital; new system pulls data from ADT and surgical scheduling systems into one screen, providing staff with a real-time overview of hospital occupancy levels.

Second element, configuring the capacity management tool to automatically alert key individuals when units or hospital occupancy exceeds preset thresholds; critical actions triggered by alerts expedite discharges and bed cleaning to avoid diversion and honor admission and transfer requests.

Method of implementation

For bed management software, the best approach is to use the object-oriented design strategy in conjunctions with UML modeling. This technology cuts development time, overhead and enables us to make reusable, reliable and easily maintainable applications in the long run. The development process itself is proposed to be iterative and incremental.

Results

With successful implementation, this can encouraged the development towards mobile application to apply all the proposed variables of staff bed allocation management and planning.

Implications

Physicians or nurses with individual mobile devices that could be continually updated can have the latest information to hand and update the hospital's information data base through edits they make while attending a patient.

Lindballe, Leslie – MA IS program

Title

Autobiography and the Online World: Living the Autobiographical Self

Background

Navigating the digital world is a competence that is increasingly involved and complex. While it was once sufficient to view the Web as simply a tool employed in service of the analogue world, the integration of the online world into our daily patterns of interaction is shifting the significance of this realm.

Purpose

Using autobiographical theory to analyze transforming notions of place, self and existence assists in conceptualizing the relationship between the analogue and digital world.

Literature Review

The verisimilitude required of an autobiographical text points to the tension implicit in making textual truth claims about our shared world. The third-space of the online world is even more problematic as it attempts to reconcile the real, tangible, objective world with the imagined, abstract, subjective world. In this space, the digital self that emerges mutually constitutes; that is, it both represents and influences the analogue self.

Results

In online identity formation, as with autobiography, the permanence of disparate utterances complicates the notion of a unified self. In the digital world, however, the creation of an autobiographical self requires constant and consistent participation of the author. The expectation of extreme presence is, in many ways, a new experiment in existence. The space, while familiar, is of our imagination, and the identities that simultaneously populate this space form a chimerical self.

Implications

Understanding the substantial autobiographical investment in the digital world is imperative as these notions of place, self and existence inform the analogue world.

This research is in progress.

Matsyuk, Karyna – MC program

Title

Three parts of the equation: A proposal for counselling support program for long-term care admissions.

Rationale/Background

Admission to long-term care is a highly stressful event for both elders and their families. Residents experience significant psychological distress and even physical health deterioration when admitted to long-term care. Family members of elders who are being admitted also experience a great deal of psychological distress. Staff members (nurses and care aids) are expected to ease the transition for residents and families. However, staff members often lack time and skills necessary to meet psychological needs of elderly and family members. In fact, staff members need education and counselling support in their work with the ill and dying. A counselling program that simultaneously serves residents, families, and staff members has the potential to facilitate transition to long-term care, and to form a base for collaboration in care.

Purpose

The program is intended to facilitate transition to long-term care for elders; to relieve the distress of family members associated with placement of a relative to long-term care; and to assist staff members in meeting the needs of residents and family members. This is likely to improve overall quality of care for the elders.

Implementation

Individual resident counselling, family counselling, and liaison with the medical team; as well as facilitation of staff educational and debriefing groups, and family support groups. Additionally, follow-up visits with residents and families will be conducted during the first 6-8 weeks after admission.

The program will be implemented for 3 months at Fraserview Intermediate Care Lodge in Richmond, BC starting August 2012.

Meng, Quan – MSc IS program

Title

Automarking Web Application (Virtual Poster)

Rationale/Background

The previous version of the Automarking application is a standalone application written in C#, which can only be used in a local machine. Web application can be accessed everywhere from the Internet. I am looking forward to converting it into a usable web application and improving the existing algorithm to be able to handle any kind of short answer questions.

Purpose

My objective is to help users reduce their time in working on the short answer questions. My goal is to build a user-friendly and highly reliable Automarking web application which can be used in real life. Professors or researchers can use it to design tests, evaluate tests and generate the reports; Students can use it to participate in the tests and review the results.

Method of implementation

I have already created the J2EE web application using Spring Framework and Hibernate ORM (Object-Relational Mapping) technique. Simple multiple sentence algorithm has been developed to handle the scenario that the answers compose of several sentences.

Results/Findings

A usable web application that can be deployable to most major web containers and can handle use requests through web service correctly and efficiently.

Implications

This web application can be deployable to any J2EE container under various platforms (Windows, Linux and Mac OS). The functionalities include managing tests and questions, generating reports and enabling web service access. The algorithm is still very limited, as it does not concern the relation between sentences. Future research is needed to improve it.

Molendyk, Susan – MN program

Title

The Clinical Nursing Instructor: Teaching Competently (Poster)

Rationale/Background

Developed as a visual representation of a paper written during a distance education graduate level course, this poster demonstrates the accessibility of available online teaching tools. It supports the development of excellence in scholarly activities associated with graduate-level education and online learning. A circular motif depicts a relationship between the components listed, linking specific and salient points needed to teach at the competent level and beyond.

Purpose

The utilization of Benner's (1982) levels of performance skill proficiency provides the backdrop upon which movement between the levels is achieved.

Implementation

Learning objectives recognize the components relevant to competent teaching. While a graduate education and past relevant clinical teaching experience support competent teaching, it is closely linked to a mentoring relationship which facilitates and fortifies movement between levels.

Results

Movement of performance skills concludes with professional and personal changes experienced by the author.

Moore-Dempsey, Laura – MHS graduate

Title

A Cross-sectional Study Examining Beliefs and Perceived Benefits Regarding Vaccine Manufacturer and Public Sector Health Professional Vaccine Education

Rationale/Background

There is a common perception that public sector and vaccine manufacturer beliefs differ regarding characteristics of arm's length relationships and benefits of working in collaboration for health professional education.

Research Questions

The primary purpose of the project was to determine similarities differences in beliefs about characteristics of arm's length relationships between vaccine manufacturer, academic institution, health authority, and public health vaccine expert education stakeholders. The secondary purpose was to investigate perceptions about benefits of collaboration in health professional education among vaccine manufacturers and public sector groups.

Methodology

A sample of 52 public and private sector vaccine experts completed an online survey assessing beliefs and benefits about vaccine manufacturer arm length relationships and benefits of collaboration for health professional vaccine education.

Results/Findings

Overall, there were more similarities than differences identified in collaboration with vaccine manufacturers concerning beliefs about 18 arms' length relationship characteristics and 17 benefit variables among the affiliation groups.

Implications

The similarities and differences indicate potential benefits for immunizers and the general public. Synergies resulting from vaccine knowledge transfer collaboration between the public sector and vaccine manufacturers can be public health primary prevention efforts.

O'Neil, Rachel – MSc IS program

Title

Social Computing Enhanced Collaborative Intelligence for Learning and Working (Virtual Poster)

Rationale/Background

Connectivist Pedagogy is currently a high level concept that implies the use of social media and Web 2.0 in order to implement the concept. The purpose of this primary research is to review literature on collective intelligence, supporting distributed system and create a proof of concept for education.

Research Question

Connectivist Pedagogy is currently conceptual. Is it possible to create an effective framework in the current technological and social media climate that can serve as a real world proof of this concept?

Methodology

The methodology includes reviewing current approaches to social media and collective intelligence, architecting and building a data storage framework for learners which include private data as well as public data and using social media application programming interfaces to dynamically augment data thus achieving the concept of connectivism where learning exists in the "world" versus the head of the individual.

Results/Findings

A proposed system which enabled connectivist learning was created as a proof of concept on a distributed architecture that can be expanded to support connectivist learning.

Implications

It is common accepted knowledge that social media has played a role in collective intelligence which is an aspect of connectivism where knowledge is gained from the world rather than one individual source. The implications of this research project are that organic and unstructured connectivism can be achieved through a formalized structure leveraging the same online resources and thus provide similar results but through a structured, documented system.

Opara, Michael – DBA program

Title

Financing Infrastructure: A case study of Public Private Partnerships in Alberta, Canada.

Purpose

Public-Private Partnerships ('PPP' or 'P3s') have been growing as a means of organizing the creation of major infrastructure assets and services in Canada and around the world. Given the recent introduction and completion of several P3 schemes, there is not yet a substantial body of rigorous academic literature on such projects.

Rationale/Background

Central to the P3 debate is whether this policy delivers better results over the conventional (traditional) infrastructure procurement model. Supporters claim that P3s allows governments to concentrate on what they do best, which is to regulate the economy and protect the overall public interest. They also claim that innovative approaches to asset delivery is a natural attribute and outcome of private sector competitive capability, that some risk components of major projects are also best borne by the private sector in some instances, and above all, that projects are delivered on time and on budget in majority of the cases.

Critics counter that P3 projects are far more expensive than traditional procurement. They argue that the appearance of better value is because of several exclusive clauses and other special arrangements that governments and her private partners write into the contracts. That it avoids the inclusion of transaction and other costs in the value for money (VfM), and short on transparency and accountability.

Implications

This study contributes to knowledge on the nature and impact of P3s in the Canadian transportation sector by subjecting these concerns to a theoretically based study, drawing on the applications of transaction cost and agency theories

Ostaszewski, Nathaniel – EdD DE program

Title

The Networked Teacher Professional Development (NTPD) Model: design Principles for Successful Implementation

Rationale/Background

With the increasing use of blended and fully online spaces to support K12 student engagement, it is critically important to introduce and support teachers in their development of online and networked teaching skills and strategies. Having teachers participate in NTPD activities is one manner in which this goal can be accomplished.

Research Question

Three research questions guided this research study:

1. What kinds of profession-centered technology learning do teachers who participate in networked professional development activities engage in?
2. What components [discourse or activities] of professional development delivered in an online social networking site do teachers identify as having professional value?
3. What factors of the networked teacher professional development experience affect teacher practice?

Methodology

The research is a result design based research [DBR] methodology evaluating the design and implementation of NTPD.

Results/Findings

The results of this research indicate that teacher participation in NTPD implementations provide opportunities:

- To develop online teaching and learning skills, sharing resources around instructional topics, and
- For engaging in meaningful discourse about teaching and learning with colleagues.

As part of this research project the development and evaluation of instructional design principals was undertaken.

Implications

In practice, the design principals presented in this paper provide K12 teacher PD providers with a starting point and guidelines on how to implement successful online modules. Further research around the amount and frequency of moderation and activity support for this kind of online professional learning as well as methods to sustain collegial online networking is needed.

Palalas, Agnieszka – EdD DE graduate

Title

Researching the Design of a Mobile-Enabled Language Learning System

Rationale/Background

This presentation provides an overview of an interdisciplinary Design-Based Research (DBR) study which investigated the design of a language learning instructional solution to address the problem of inadequate aural skills acquisition for college English for Special Purposes students. The resulting educational intervention employed mobile technology to expand learning beyond the classroom and thus offer a flexible ESL practice embedded in real-life language situations. The eighteen-month DBR process of data collection and analysis resulted in a conceptual model and design principles for a Mobile-Enabled Language Learning (MELL) solution.

Research Question

The iterative process of the design, development and evaluation of the MELL system was guided by the following question: What are the characteristics of an effective, pedagogically-sound MELLES for students' mobile devices, through which adult ESP students in a community college enhance listening skills, while expanding their learning outside of the classroom?

**Mobile-Enabled Language Learning Eco-System*

Methodology

The MELLES system was researched, designed, developed and piloted in the real-life learning context following the blend of Constructivist, Ecological Linguistic and Ecological theories. The DBR method was applied. This multi-cycle study encompassed three phases, namely [1] Informed Exploration, [2] Enactment, and [3] Evaluation: Local Impact.

Results/Findings

The study resulted in a MELLES system as well as design guidelines addressing the essential characteristics of the MELL intervention as well as procedures recommended to operationalize those characteristics.

Implications

The study also resulted in a better understanding of ESP learning using mobile devices as well as the praxis of Design-Based Research. In addition, the Ecological Constructivist framework was proposed.

Ridgewell, Walter – MSc IS program

Title

Addressing Security Issues in Gaming Systems: A Virtual Learning Approach

Rationale/Background

Historical data regarding security threats, exploitation of vulnerabilities in personal computing devices and recently mobile devices indicate that once a technology reaches a maturity level in

network connectivity and user adoption, that attacks and exploitation of such devices is inevitable.

Research Question

As growing numbers of consumer entertainment devices, game consoles and portable game devices become part of a home computing network. Increased utilization as Internet Appliances, surfing the Web will they will face the same online threat potentials as experienced by previous devices?

Methodology

An examination of the security aspects of networked game devices in relation to the current threat environment presented to networked wireless devices, and their associated connectivity to the Internet. Utilizing the same analysis and penetration testing methodologies as for networked personal computing devices, the potential for vulnerabilities and exploitation are examined.

Results

Evaluation of the game devices facilitated the creation of a vulnerability matrix, indicating potential threat areas. Utilizing that information to quantify test areas, results of such examinations indicate similar security/vulnerability issues in the game devices as with online computing devices.

Implications

This indicates the possibility of exploitation of nontraditional computing network active devices such as game systems, by direct or indirect threats presenting threats to a network infrastructure. Addressing this concern educationally, a 3D immersive virtual world built with OpenSim and Moodle software is created illustrating potential security risks an utilizing the appeal of such environments to engage the game device user.

Romero, Alicia – MEd DE program

Title

The Role of the Discussion Forum in the Social Construction of Knowledge: A Narrative Study

Rationale/Background

This narrative study describes the experience of a novice distance education (DE) student participating in an online discussion forum.

Purpose

The purpose of the study is to capture and describe the experience of a novice DE student participating in a discussion forum in order to provide possible answers to the questions:

- Is asynchronous communication viewed as an important component in the learning process for a student that is new to DE?
- How does a novice DE student feel when participating in discussion forums?
- How does a novice student have, coped, or handled his/her participation in discussion forums?

Type of literature review

Data collection and analysis based on the qualitative tradition of inquiry. Hence, data was collected in a face-to-face open-ended interview. The interview was audio-recorded and then transcribed for analysis. Creswell's plot template of coding was used for data analysis.

Results/Findings

It seems that online discussion forums foster didactic conversation on novice DE students. Hence they are an important component of distance learning.

Implications

Results also revealed that the student's area of expertise may have an impact in the way a student interacts in a discussion forum. This may be worth exploring in further research.

St. Onge, Angela – MN program

Title

Reducing Pediatric Anxiety Preoperatively: Strategies for Nurses (Poster)

Rationale/Background

The surgical process can cause anxiety in children and this anxiety can be associated with both short and long term outcomes. Reduced pre-operative anxiety can improve both the child's and family's surgical experience.

Purpose

This purpose of this literature review is to highlight helpful strategies that can be implement, into their current daily practice, in order to reduce paediatric pre-operative anxiety.

Type of Literature Review

Narrative literature review.

Results

The literature reveals three main sources of preoperative pediatric anxiety: the fear of the unknown, intimidating and unfamiliar environments, and required hospital procedures. Furthermore, The literature indicates several strategies nurses and other health care professionals can incorporate into everyday practice to minimize these sources of anxiety. These strategies include: a child-focused approach, medical play and medical re-interpretation, distraction, and informed parental presence.

Implications

Paediatric surgery is an anxiety provoking experience for children. Reduced pre-operative anxiety can improve both the child's and family's surgical experience. This includes increased parental satisfaction, child compliance with hospital procedures, and reduced post-operative recovery time as well as long-term benefits such as, but not limited to, reduced fear of the hospital experience. Incorporating the aforementioned strategies requires small changes in practice behaviors, but will have a significant impact on the health and satisfaction of our paediatric patients and their families.

Saretsky, Michael – MHS program

Title

Cultural adaptation, translation, and validation of the Lower Extremity Functional Scale into Arabic (Virtual Poster)

Rationale/Background

The monitoring of patient recovery from injury or illness is recognized as increasingly important for reasons of establishing health care feasibility, cost-effectiveness and standardization. The LEFS is a valid and reliable patient reported outcome measurement scale (PROMS) not yet available to an Arabic population.

Research Question

This project culturally adapts, translates, and validates the original Lower Extremity Functional Scale (LEFS) into Arabic for an Arab population (LEFS (A)).

Methodology

Universal translation and cross-cultural validation procedures outlined by Eremenco, Cella and Arnold were utilized. External validity was shown firstly by a comparison of LEFS-A scores with days since surgery was made. It was expected that the LEFS-A scores would increase with days since surgery. Secondly, a comparison was made between LEFS-A scores and the independently rated functional status of the patients.

Results/Findings

The average LEFS-A scores for the early, intermediate, and advanced groups was 32.0 (± 15.7), 50.9 (± 13.7) and 68.75 (± 10.3) respectively ($p < 0.01$ for all comparisons), demonstrating construct validity along with the approximately linear trend in LEFS-A scores between the 3 groups. A polynomial regression showed a significant relation between these two factors and explained 55% of the variance in the data. Results of the Intra-Class Correlation examination showed the data to have excellent inter-rater reliability.

Implications

The results of the present study show the LEFS (A) to be a valid and reliable measure of the functional status in an Arab population with an ACL injury.

This project is complete and is likely to be part of other research initiatives in the future.

Smith, Jean – MN program

Title

New Baccalaureate Nurse Graduates' Transition to Rural Acute Care

Rationale/Background

A number of new baccalaureate nurse graduates will choose to work in Canadian rural acute care hospitals and be expected to become rural nurse experts. While it is well documented that the transition of novice nurses into Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, and U.S. urban acute care environments is stressful, there is little known about new baccalaureate nurse graduates' transition into Canadian rural acute care hospitals. Causes for further concern include high Canadian registered nurse retirement rates (leaving few seasoned registered nurses to support new baccalaureate nurse graduates' transition); alarmingly high Canadian and U.S. novice nurse attrition rates; and low novice nurse retention rates in Canadian rural communities.

Research Question

To address this gap in the extant literature and to generate understandings about the phenomenon of transition as it relates to new baccalaureate nurse graduates in rural acute care settings, the following research question was chosen "What are the transition experiences of new baccalaureate nurse graduates into the rural acute care environment?"

Methodology

An interpretive description research approach was selected to explore the research question. Ethics approval was received by Athabasca University's Research Ethics Board and recruitment of participants was facilitated by the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA).

Results/Findings

Preliminary findings will be presented for discussion.

Implications

Findings can inform rural acute care policy, education, and organizational initiatives to support new baccalaureate nurse graduates' transitions into rural settings. This study is currently in progress.

Tavares-Jones, Nancy – MC program

Title

An exploratory study of Jungian personality traits in Second Life™ residents (Poster)

Rationale/Background

Second life ("SL") is a 3D virtual world in which residents participate in a variety of activities using an avatar. SL residents participate and interact with others either through text or voice communication in a manner that is shaped by the personality preferences of the resident. The

Majors Personality Type-Elements (“Majors PTE”) is a personality preference measurement tool based on the work of Jung, Myers, and Briggs. The Majors PTE assigns a personality type (“Type”) using four dichotomous scales (i.e. Extroversion-Introversion, Intuitive-Sensing, Thinking-Feeling and Judging-Perceiving). This study explores Type preferences of SL residents using the Majors PTE.

Research Question

What Type profiles appear in SL using the Majors PTE? Do the profiles that appear in SL differ from non-SL norms?

Methodology

Residents of SL are recruited through SL “in-world” advertising, SL discussion forums, and sampling of known residents. Participants will complete two surveys; a demographic survey and the Majors PTE assessment. The distribution of Type profiles will be examined and a statistical analysis performed.

Results/Findings

Based on my literature review I anticipate that there will be over-representations of the Introverted, Thinking and Judging types.

Implications

Firstly, educators may find that an understanding of personality sheds light on the unanticipated challenges found when incorporating virtual worlds as educational media. Secondly, health professionals may better understand correlations between personality and psychopathological issues such as addictive behaviour, identity dissociation and diffusion.

Tynes, Bethany – MA IS graduate

Title

The Literature of Canadian Cowboy Culture - A New Historicist Perspective on the Works of Corb Lund as Cowboy Poetry

Rationale/Background

Though cowboy poetry has been in existence for over a century, it has only recently begun to attract literary criticism and questions of genre. As yet, little academic attention has been devoted to the similarities between this genre and the works of Corb Lund.

Research Question

How do the themes and motifs present in the lyrics of Corb Lund relate to the genre of cowboy poetry?

Methodology

For the purposes of this study, I consider as primary sources the four albums produced by Corb Lund over the course of the last decade (*Five Dollar Bill*, *Hair in My Eyes Like A Highland Steer*, *Horse Soldier! Horse Soldier!*, and *Losin’ Lately Gambler*) and examine the lyrics from a

new historicist viewpoint, which deals with the works in their cultural and historical context. This literary perspective, as described by Catherine Gallagher and Stephen Greenblatt in *Practicing New Historicism*, and aided by digital humanities research tools, helps to illuminate the commonalities between Lund's works and the tradition of cowboy poetry.

Results

Ultimately, Lund's work can be situated staunchly within the bounds of the genre of cowboy poetry, fulfilling important criteria and sharing a number of common images and themes.

Implications

This research adds to the existing body of academic knowledge about the literature and music of the Canadian West, and serves to explore this knowledge from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Vladimirschi, Viviane – MEd DE graduate

Title

An exploratory study of cross-cultural engagement in the Community of Inquiry: instructor perspectives and challenges

Rationale/Background

Although the CoI framework is becoming increasingly influential for explaining and prescribing effective conduct of collaborative constructivist online learning and teaching, it does not consider cultural issues and multicultural online engagement. The underlying assumption of this study is that, as instructors project their personalities in the online environment via their teaching and social presence, both of which are largely rooted in their dominant culture, their values, beliefs and attitudes will significantly affect learners' social and cognitive presence.

Research Question

How do instructors accommodate and make provisions for cross-cultural learners in an online community of learning?

Methodology

A two-phase study was conducted with 10 instructors from two Alberta higher education institutions. Phase one comprised creating intercultural competency indicators to test how they developed and expanded existing teaching and social presence indicators. Phase two involved augmenting the 34-item CoI survey instrument. Additional roles that relate to instructor cross-cultural efficacy were incorporated into both teaching and social presence elements based on qualitative findings.

Results/Findings

Qualitative data revealed that in the lack of any cross-cultural design, instructors utilize facilitation and open communication strategies to foster learning and prevent conflict. Quantitative data indicated that the incorporated cultural indicators correlated strongly with the teaching and social indicators, indicating their usefulness to measure multicultural efficacy in the CoI framework.

Implications

Instructor efficacious facilitation and open communication strategies can compensate for the lack of a cross-cultural instructional design.

Walsh-Starkes, Arlene – MN program

Title

Can Nursing Faculty's Attitudes Predict High Fidelity Simulation Use? (Poster)

Rationale/Background

In Baccalaureate nursing education there is reluctance on the part of nursing faculty to introduce and use High Fidelity Simulation (HFS). Literature identifies benefits to HFS use; yet, this technology is not being embraced and used in nursing education. Without exploring faculty's attitudes towards technology, specifically that of simulation, it will never be known exactly what hinders the integration of technology into education.

Research Questions

- What is the current practice in Alberta regarding HFS in Baccalaureate Nursing Education?
- Are nursing faculty prepared to deliver Baccalaureate Nursing Education using HFS?
- What are nursing faculty's attitudes surrounding the implementation and integration of HFS into existing curricula?

Methodology

Research is being conducted using a cross-sectional correlational design. The Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) was the framework chosen; it is based on the premise that an individual's behaviour can be predicted from their intentions. The sample consisted of registered Nurses in Alberta who choose their primary place of employment as a nursing education institute for the last licensing year. A total of 400 nurses were invited to participate; with 57 actually participating in the online survey.

Results/Findings

Descriptive statistics will be used to describe the characteristics of the data collected, including identifying any barriers to the implementation of HFS as well as any benefits. Inferential statistics will be used to explore and analyze the relationship between the variables in this research.

Implications

Specifically, to determine if a relationship does not exist between nursing faculty's attitudes and the use of high fidelity simulators in nursing education.

Weiskopf-Ball, Emily – MA IS program

Title

Eating Up Tradition: An Autoethnographic Study of Evolving Traditional Food

Rationale/Background

From ethnography to photography, food has infiltrated almost every academic discipline. Yet, few studies have focused on the ways in which *traditional* foods have changed over the past three generations.

Research Question

What do the foods we consider traditional say about our modern culture?

Methodology

Though primarily an autoethnographic study, male and female family members were interviewed to determine their general attitudes toward traditional foods then filmed making a food of their choice. The data was analysed using the study of material objects and Critical Discourse Analysis.

Results/Findings

The absence of certain foods from my siblings' interviews demonstrates that once staple food items have little value to our generation. In fact, the continuity of traditional foods depends on the ability to make them quickly and conveniently. Thus certain tools and products have ensured the survival of some foods at the expense of others. Though most of my participants claim that the food we eat is not as important as being together, their very identification of certain foods as traditional and their acknowledgement that some foods are anticipated and/or culturally representative means that traditional foods are, in fact, significant.

Implications

A desire for certain foods combined with the modern cook's busy lifestyle, means that one generally does not question the food industry's practices and standards. Furthermore, ties to culture, community, and identity make these foods important signifiers of our society's current attitudes toward food practices in general

Yeung, Sze Kiu – EdD DE program

Title

Synchronous computer-mediated instruction: Toward a pedagogical model for effective distributed learning

Rationale/Background

Pedagogy and technology, and in particular, synchronous technology, are the focus of this study. According to de Freitas and Newmann (2009), there is little coverage in the literature of a

coherent pedagogical model that guides teaching and learning practices in a synchronous computer-mediated environment (synchronous learning). The aims of this study are to investigate: (a) a suitable pedagogical model for, and (b) the benefits, if any, of synchronous learning in the context of SIM University's Diploma in Management Studies (DMS) programme.

Research Questions

- (1) Among a cohort of Diploma in Management Studies (DMS) students at SIM University, what differences, if any, can be detected in learning effectiveness for students experiencing synchronous computer-mediated instruction, compared to those experiencing traditional classroom-based instruction?
- (2) How does class-size affect teaching and learning within a synchronous computer-mediated environment?
- (3) What are the features of an effective pedagogical model that can be adopted in a synchronous computer-mediated instructional context?

Methodology

A mixed methods approach will be adopted. Specifically, on the questions relating to learning effectiveness and class-size, a cross-sectional study that compares different participants over four quarterly-semesters will be undertaken. As for the question on pedagogy, pedagogical action research will be adopted. Overall, the underlying research design is based on Campbell and Stanley's (1963) quasi-experimental design: pretest-post-test non-equivalent group design.

Results/Findings

To be determined.

Implications

To make a contribution to the literature on pedagogy for a synchronous computer-mediated environment and to determine its effectiveness in the context of SIM University.