

EDC synchtube tutorial, 21 January 2013

Sian: Hi all!

cmeck: Hello Sian and all, Joining you today from Houston!

Gina: hi everyone!

Amy: Hello

Sian: wow Chantelle! I think everyone else is coming in from Edinburgh?

Gina: it is snowing in Edinburgh...

cmeck: It was a last minute trip -matrix!! seeing the snow!

Gina: I nearly forgot the synchtube session was today...

cmeck: or teletransported!

Jen: hi all!

Gina: hellllooo

cmeck: Hello Jen!

Jen: happy Monday - grr.

cmeck: Will there be time today to ask questions about our blogs?

Sian: yes, we have the rubbish kind of snow that makes everything cold and wet but doesn't look pretty...

Jen: Sure, Chantelle - let's take a few minutes at the start for any questions like that.

Sian: yes - fire ahead Chantelle

cmeck: Great! Just want to confirm we need to write a summary each week for 250 words.

Jen: hello TaniaL - have we met?

cmeck: Also the entries to the blogs need to be academic?

I am getting the idea we need to be posting multimodality stuff

And that we need to comment on each other's entries.

AM I on the right track?

Jen: Confirmed on the summary - about 250 words per week that reflect back on the tumblog content for the week

Sian: I think we can take a fairly broad definition of 'academic' for the blog entries but it's good if they can be critical and scholarly re the course content and readings multimodality - yes, absolutely

Gina: could I suggest to the tutors we each get a bit of individual feedback via some general comments? just so we get the drift?

Sian: and yes - as much commentary as possible on each others postings that has been one of the single most important things in previous course runs in terms of building the group dynamic

cmeck: Great thanks for the confirmation. The idea I believe is to build a community on EDEC.

Jen: Gina, we send mid-tumblog feedback in week 5 to review where things are at with each person

cmeck: An this is different from the life steam inprevious years.

Jen: and what (if anything) could be better.

Sian: yes - and in some ways it's quite challenging to do so, given we don't use discussion board much, and the commentary is fairly dispersed - when it works though, it does work really well!

Jen: Yes it it, Chantelle - this is the first time we've used the tumblog format

Sian: [that last comment was re community building]

cmeck: I get the sense this time round we are encouraged to try the different presenataitons so we could think of applying them in education context.

(presentations!)

Thanks!

Sian: Chantelle, by 'presentations' do you mean different ways of presenting knowledge?

cmeck: Yes!

Sian: thought so! yes, spot on

cmeck: Presenting and analysing I guess

Gina: great - thanks, Jen. Week 5 seems fine, but quite late, in case need a different approach....

Jen: It takes time for each person's tumblog to take shape and to settle into a rhythm. But don't worry -

Sian: yes, in that sense it's very different from the IDEL blog

Jen: as long as you are adding content regularly and aiming for a diversity of modes and looking for interesting stuff that connects with the course content

Amy: I'm starting to worry that I'm using it too much like the IDEL and not enough like a new EDC reflection tool...

Jen: you'll be doing more than fine!

Gina: IDEL was a while ago for me... time flies...

Amy: but I guess this is part of the 'getting to know it' stage

Jen: that's it, Amy - it's a different kind of thing, but there's lots of scope for getting it right (many ways to be right)

cmeck: I guess we will get better at this by week 4 - hnce the week 5 commentary!) There is a lot to do at the moment - and to review and try different things. I must say looking at some of the post

I have learnt uite a bit already

(quite a bit)

Jen: the best tip I can offer is to think about how you can represent (or find representations) of ideas and questions in non-textual forms.

Amy: everyone else seems to be snowed... errrrmm... in/out? what do we reckon the 'digital' form is

Jen: Not that you should use text, also, but moving away from that is what people tend to find most challenging.

cmeck: It is challenging but really push us out of our comfort zone.

Jen: (sorry - "not that you *shouldn't* I mean!)

taniaL: hi all, im new here and im trying to keep you with all links/resources sent to

me

cmeck: hello Tania!

Gina: hi Tania

taniaL: i think it might take a while...

Hi all

Sian: yes, I agree Chantelle, it's not easy thinking within a visual rather than a textual literacy...

Jen: hi Tania, you are welcome to join in with our discussion today. Are you someone who has signed up for the MOOC?

Sian: Hi Tania - I think you might be on the EDC MOOC rather than the MSc in E-learning?

taniaL: yes its true

Sian: that's OK, you are welcome to stay and talk!

Jen: ah, well, this is a tutorial for students on the MSc in E-learning (Digital Education) - so most of that conversation won't apply to you!

taniaL: i followed this link through ededc blog

Sian: though you won't have seen the readings we're discussing

taniaL: oops...sorry then

feel free to continue... [pretend im not here :)]

Sian: it's OK Tania - the boundary between this course and the MOOC seems to be quite a leaky one!

Amy:

Sian: shall we go ahead and watch the films>

Gina: great

Amy: yes please

Sian: I suggest we start with World Builder...

I'll kick off now

ok it should be playing for everyone

Amy: I really enjoyed this film - especially playing 'guess the twists'

Sian: I wonder why he only has an hour to do this

Jen: I want one of those!

Gina: an academic At MIT (Patti Maes) is doing this kind of stuff

Amy: sleep patterns - the time it takes to get to a deep dream-like sleep ??

Gina: He is wearing the right gear...

Jen: ah, interesting thought, Amy.

Sian: nice one Amy

cmeck: This reminds me a bit of Second Life - one of the tutorial - makig ojects

Jen: I like the engineer-type outfit.

cmeck: making objects

Sian: agreed Chantelle, the whole thing seems influenced by Second Life to me

Jen: it really is similar, Chantelle.

Gina: it is all refelcting real life

Amy: it's just like a 3D printer!!

I saw it more like Sims

Gina: building the real world out of the immaterial

taniaL: is he going to "build" people too?

Gina: lower power

Amy: he's just pressed the rosebud cheat loads of times!

Gina: flower power

Sian: lol Amy

Jen: you'll have to wait and see, Tania!

:~)

Gina: flower = link with real life

cmeck: Looking at this from a child's eyes...

Amy: the most difficult to get right too
and the most noticable if not right

Jen: uncanny valley, Amy?

Amy: yeah!

Jen: we notice when nature isn't... natural.

Gina: but he does not have an avatar

Jen: so maybe making people would be too hard.

taniaL: Eva?

Gina: hospital = hotel

hope she will leave

Amy: Playing God - interesting that he won't let her see him

Sian: yes, one of the many creepy things about this fil,

Gina: when sge sees god it would be too late

Sian: film

Amy: as if that ruins the dream

Jen: uh oh

Gina: she feels the door

Amy: surely you would see the bright gree wall!

Gina: he hides

Amy: green

Gina: voyeuristic

Amy: the flower is very enhanced though

Gina: yes, I agree it is the link

Amy: it doesn't look 'natural'

Jen: maybe this isn't about being real

it's about being coherent?

Sian: it's about memory?

Amy: or perfect?

yeah

Gina: temporailty is everywhere

cmeck: Aye! voyeuristic - this looks like a spanish town I have visited!

taniaL: awww he can build everything but he cant build feelings

Amy: and memories can distort true perspective

Sian: I imagine it as a simulacrum of their honeymoon location or something

Amy: strengthened by feelings maybe

cmeck: In a coma?

Gina: the flower

Sian: girlfriend in a coma

Amy: well, he is marries
married

Jen: i JUST realised (after years of watching this film)

taniaL: tell us Jen

Jen: that there's no suggestion (is there?) that he is married to her -
he might be the tech guy
and has fallen in love?

Amy: awwwwwww

Jen: am I forgetting something?

Gina: It reminded me of the film AI, steven spielberg

Sian: well, that makes it even more creepy

Amy: how lovely... and more like second life

Gina: tech guy... oh dear...

Amy: he has created the memories

cmeck: Crossing boundaries... real and the virtual?

Jen: that would explain why he has to hide

Gina: it's like a visual song

Sian: really amy? doesn't this film make you uncomfortable about the gender roles here? he has basically just programmed his girlfriend.

Jen: and why he has these skills
she doesn't know him

and it's his job (in the holographic recovery unit)

taniaL: he wants to build the perfecct world for here, but unfortunately he cant
change the real life
her*

Sian: [or, by Jen's reading, he's conducted an act of very advanced stalking!]

Amy: humm, I said aww without really thinking about his 'real' wife at home

taniaL: dont think it matters if they are married or not

Gina: I only saw the clip twice now, I thought it was 'girlfriend in a coma'

Sian: agreed Tania :)

Amy: but it's true, if she knew him like that, surely he would want to be seen
then again

there were pictures of them together

Gina: unless these were also composed

Amy: but these could be constructed

Jen: there is something warm about it, though - I don't dispute there is a romantic
element.

Amy: maybe she has lost her memory and now he's trying to piece it back together
but building the memories back for her

Gina: the music makes it romantic

Amy: rebuilding her world

Jen: I think you are right, though - those photos do suggest that they 'know' each other.

I'm probably just having a twisted day. :-)

taniaL: flower is life, there is something meaningful in there

cmeck: I think one of the papers we read this week is about the impact of sound in the digital representation.

Amy: maybe that's the only thing she does remember and he's building things around it

Jen: yes, Chantelle - the Sterne paper (secondary reading)

did you get a chance to read it?

Amy: it was good - the whole set were very complementary

Gina: I had one red of Sterne, very interestig, I put something on the blog
I agree amy

cmeck: I got through half of it.. need to finish it. I guess we do not think about these much as we take it for granted about sound, visual etc in what digital technology has afforded for us these days.

It is very powerful

Sian: yes, I think it's a good point he makes about the over-emphasis on the visual in digital culture

Amy: it was a very good argument for everything could be viewed as digital and it's about defining your boundaries each time rather than assuming original terminology is suitable

Sian: can I raise the question here about how this film views the distinction between mind and body?

Jen: defining boundaries - nicely put.

Amy: conntected but not dependent

back to... err... the sci fi brain in a jar reading in IDEL

Sian: good link in what ways is that view problematic?

Jen: the world of the mind/virtual is impoverished - it is temporary and difficult to sustain, and there's no suggestion that it is a satisfactory replacement. That is quite interesting. It's a sad place for all its detail.

Amy: ooooh a link to Hand (I think) that people often forget behind every computer or internet page there is a person creating it - it does not happen without intervention

Gina: there is a utopian ideal, technology can enhance our expereince

Amy: in many ways, link back to this video, without technology she would potentially not be alive

Gina: we all use technology to sustain our memories

Amy: ... or if we go back long enough, be burried without realising

Gina: digital cameras, phones... go to a concert and everyone hold up their handset

Amy: is that a bad thing?

Gina: no, not at all, not for me
it extends my memory (and I need it ...:))

Jen: :-)

cmeck: All the documentation that we could do these days - eg photography, archiving in the digital form - become our memory.

Sian: yes but the simulation in this film isn't of memory - it's of life

cmeck: (our memory)

Amy: I think it was Poster's article that commented about just how much information is all around us that it has far outgrown human capacity alone

Gina: yes, it is also a bit like the camera in the matrix, see a gig and it is filmed from different angles

cmeck: @memory of our life?

Sian: the film takes the 'computer' as a model of human cognition. the brain can be re-booted.

cmeck: @Sian?

Jen: one of our colleagues (and former MSc student) is exploring digital memory practices for his PhD - Tim Fawns. Worth checking out.<http://timfawns.com/wordpress/>

Sian: I think this view is very problematic

cmeck: Digital memory is problematic?

Sian: (not Tim's - the view that isolates human cognition from human embodiment!)

cmeck: Yes, it would be

Sian: yet it's a core sci-fi fantasy

Amy: the computer analogy is used in Psychology to describe memory and responses

Jen: right, Amy.

Amy: a little Pavlov rat simplistic in many ways

Jen: but as a metaphor, it has problems

that the metaphor itself can stop us from seeing.

Amy: but we need the metaphor to understand it to begin with

Jen: conundrum!

Amy: he he

like the metaphor reading - I was thinking how could you describe the internet without the metaphor?

cmeck: Yes, metaphors can stop us from seeing

Sian: yes Chantelle, agreed, the metaphor starts to gain the status of 'truth'

Amy: but we're not quite at the stage where the internet is as commonplace as a kettle so we use the internet as a metaphor to describe other things

Sian: shall we just look at the next film to see how it deals with these themes?

cmeck: (I read an article (or cursory scan rather).. by Liz Jones on the daily Mail yesterday - about people being like robots and she was referring to people who come to her to fulfil certain tasks --

just interesting - related to MOOC - about being human

Here human is behaving like robots

Jen: I think the robotics and computing metaphors are really very interesting.

Amy: made in man's likeness

cmeck: So the problem re the separation of human cognition and human embodiment
i.e robots not human and not complete

Sorry, do move on to the next film..

Sian: yes Chantelle, Katherine Hayles is brilliant on this point - we have a reading
from her later in the course

her view is that theories of the posthuman have always been based on a
misunderstanding of how cognition is based on, and in, the body

cmeck: Thanks, Sian, look forward to reading that.

Sian:

I'll play the 'read deal'

is the burger real?

Gina: nice him touching the leaf, and that music again

Amy: here, the nature is not the life... it's the car... a piece of lifeless metal

Jen: absolutely, Amy.

Right - music!

Gina: very marketing

Sian: odd choice of soundtrack

what isn't regretted?

Gina: him picking the car I guess

Amy: leaving the digital

Sian: lol Gina!

Jen: :-)

Gina: I think it was a corporate marketing decision to do this clip

Sian: the digital/natural opposition is the main issue of interest in this clip I think

cmeck: (What is linked to the EDEC site on the Real deal is different from what is
just played.)

Gina: I don't think so...?

Amy: I liked that he smashed through the TV/digital screen to reveal the 'real' world

Gina: and the car is always real

at least I thought it was...?

Sian: you're right Chantelle - they've just changed the link!

Jen: gosh - so it is, Chantelle! I think we must have linked to the channel rather than
the direct video. Will fix!

Gina: strange as I did see it and got the link okay

cmeck: It is interesting that the advert on cars is about the real deal - away from
digital?

Not so much the gender reference as in the past

Sian: I've just fixed it Jen

Gina: it would be more interesting if it had 2 kids and a dog...

cmeck: the digital reference has permeated everywhere

I am thinking what would be parents look at this?

Gina: I think it illustrates the use of CGI has moved into mainstream

cmeck: Say the generation of 70 -80 years old

Jen: it's interesting, because the suggestion (I think) is *our* real world is not real, either - that we might all discover (if we find the right drug...er, car)

Gina: unless the advertising was in cinemas?

Jen: that this is not the real deal
a bit matrix-ish.

cmeck: SO instead of the fake digital/virtual world, it is now about getting back to the natural

Sian: it always surprises me how we seem to need, as a culture, to keep a clear dividing line between the 'natural' and the 'technological'

Amy: yeah, I find this really odd too

cmeck: It is - the boudary issue
boundary

Gina: historical references

Sian: what is at stake in the boundary becoming blurred?

Amy: especially when you personally see them so interwoven
'losing control'

Gina: or comfort zones

cmeck: It is blurred and should these be so polarised anyway?

Amy: back to the first readings around political control

Sian: agreed Chantelle. Amy - can you say more?

Amy: well they are emerging together, not even in parallel, so it does seem strange to disassociate the associated!

cmeck: What is emerging together?

Gina: everyting in the digital world is modelled on the real world

Amy: well, people feel safe when there are clear boundaries - they are fearful of the unknown and at the moment the unknown is the interwoven
or the fear of 'losing' something by combining the two

Gina: (in the clip I mean)

cmeck: Back to I guess the definition of Utopia
Utopian

Amy: rather than the potential of gaining a lot by strengthening each other

Sian: yes, or perhaps the fear - as Jen says - that the concept of the 'natural' turns out to be as human-created as the technological

Amy: we will no doubt have political campaigns appealing to the 'natural vs digital' "divide"

Gina: sorry, I have to finish shortly, end of my lunch break...

Sian: again, we'll do more on this later when we read Donna Haraway on cyborgs

Jen: and we might lose, ultimately, the category of 'human'

Sian: yes, we have gone over time
too interesting!

Jen: great to see you all!

cmeck: Thank you all.

Jen: thanks for coming.

Sian: let's call it a day - thanks everyone

Amy: thank you for a lovely lunchtime chat!

Gina: thanks! speak soon

Sian: we'll archive the chat in the edc site
bye!

Jen: bye everyone!

cmeck: Bye Jen!