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Using and resisting Facebook for back channel discussions: two experiences, two views

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# B1: Using and resisting Facebook for back channel discussions: two experiences, two views



Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

**Louise Mycroft – The Northern College**

**Alison Iredale – University of Huddersfield (University campus Oldham)**





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# Back channel discussions – the what and the why



## **Louise**

- residential blocks of in-service training
- trainees potentially recruited from across England and Wales
- rethink as ‘blended learning’: need to engage trainees outside residential

## **Alison**

- Weekly classes of in-service and pre-service training
- “IT for Teachers” programme as part of personal skills development
- MSc Action Research module - twitter hashtag #mscmmel

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# Using Facebook



## **Northern College Cert Ed/PGCE/BA/Graduates**

- 'closed group' on Facebook
- 57 members (75 current students)
- message board (queries/mutual support)
- monthly discussion groups (question posed by students)
- Tweets posted automatically to inform/inspire debate

## [Northern College Facebook Group](#)

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# Other Platforms



## **Northern College Cert Ed/PGCE/BA/Graduates**

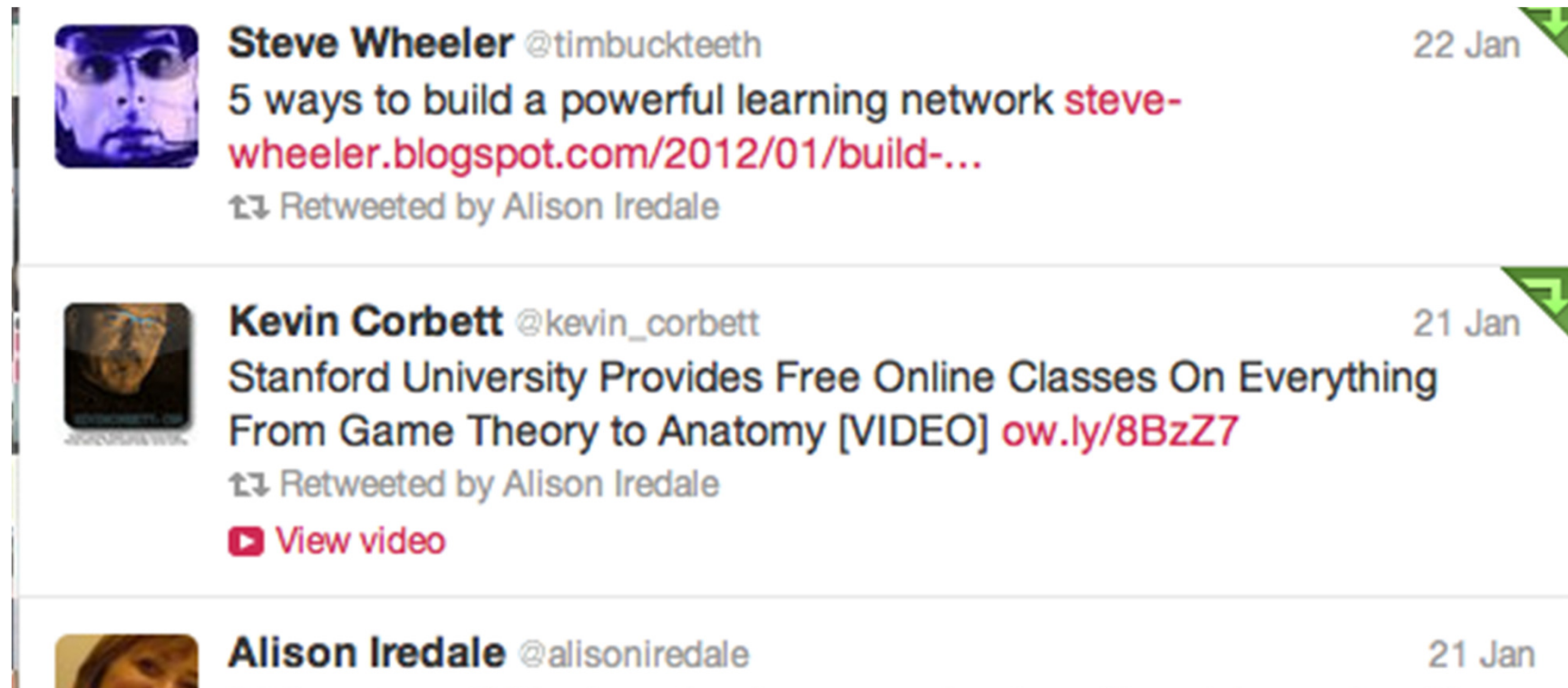
- growing Twitter presence for TeachNorthern 'brand' #teachingforasocialpurpose
- Northern Eye VLE
- UniLearn discussion board and local materials
- BA Collaborative Journal (Campus Pack)
- Weekly catch-up email
- Texts to all at key encouragement points

# Other ways of generating and sustaining back channel discussions



- Twitter
  - [Followers](#)
  - [Re-tweeting and Favourites](#)
  - [Lists](#)
  - [Daily newspapers and Scoop-it](#)
- Drop Box
- [Posterous](#)
- Blogs and wikis

# Re-tweeting and favourites



The screenshot shows a vertical list of three tweets. Each tweet includes a profile picture, the user's name and handle, the date, the text of the tweet, and a retweet indicator. The first tweet is from Steve Wheeler (@timbuckteeth) dated 22 Jan, with a link to a blog post. The second is from Kevin Corbett (@kevin\_corbett) dated 21 Jan, with a link to a video and a 'View video' button. The third is from Alison Iredale (@alisoniredale) dated 21 Jan.

**Steve Wheeler** @timbuckteeth 22 Jan  
5 ways to build a powerful learning network [steve-wheeler.blogspot.com/2012/01/build-...](http://steve-wheeler.blogspot.com/2012/01/build-...)  
↕ Retweeted by Alison Iredale

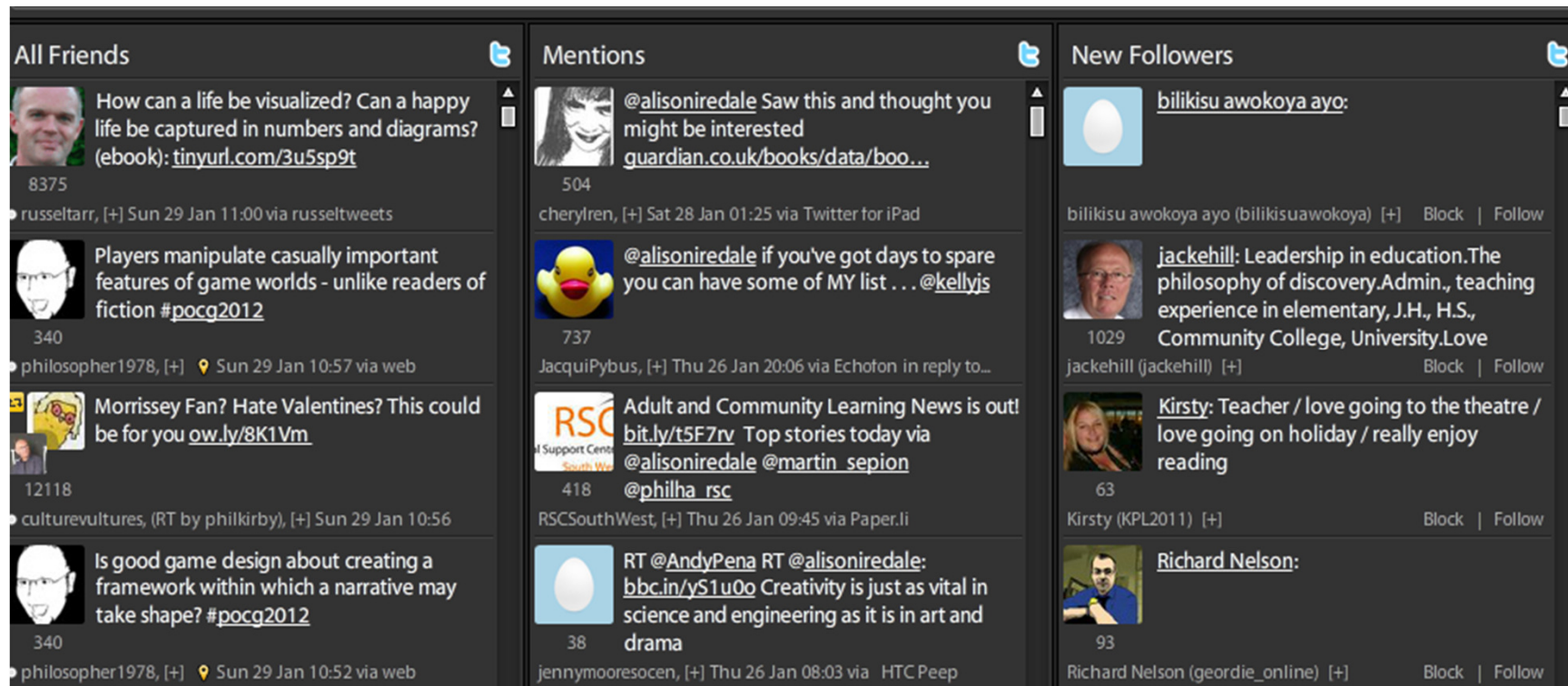
**Kevin Corbett** @kevin\_corbett 21 Jan  
Stanford University Provides Free Online Classes On Everything From Game Theory to Anatomy [VIDEO] [ow.ly/8BzZ7](http://ow.ly/8BzZ7)  
↕ Retweeted by Alison Iredale  
[View video](#)

**Alison Iredale** @alisoniredale 21 Jan

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# Tweetdeck - Following,, mentions, hashtags and followers



The screenshot displays a Twitter Tweetdeck interface with three columns:

- All Friends:**
  - Profile: russeltarr (8375 followers). Tweet: "How can a life be visualized? Can a happy life be captured in numbers and diagrams? (ebook): [tinyurl.com/3u5sp9t](http://tinyurl.com/3u5sp9t)". Sent Sun 29 Jan 11:00 via russeltweets.
  - Profile: philosopher1978 (340 followers). Tweet: "Players manipulate casually important features of game worlds - unlike readers of fiction #pocg2012". Sent Sun 29 Jan 10:57 via web.
  - Profile: culturevultures (12118 followers). Tweet: "Morrissey Fan? Hate Valentines? This could be for you [ow.ly/8K1Vm](http://ow.ly/8K1Vm)". Sent Sun 29 Jan 10:56 (RT by philkirby).
  - Profile: philosopher1978 (340 followers). Tweet: "Is good game design about creating a framework within which a narrative may take shape? #pocg2012". Sent Sun 29 Jan 10:52 via web.
- Mentions:**
  - Profile: cheryren (504 followers). Tweet: "@alisoniredale Saw this and thought you might be interested [guardian.co.uk/books/data/boo...](http://guardian.co.uk/books/data/boo...)". Sent Sat 28 Jan 01:25 via Twitter for iPad.
  - Profile: JacquiePybus (737 followers). Tweet: "@alisoniredale if you've got days to spare you can have some of MY list ... @kellyjs". Sent Thu 26 Jan 20:06 via Echofon in reply to...
  - Profile: RSCSouthWest (418 followers). Tweet: "Adult and Community Learning News is out! [bit.ly/t5F7rv](http://bit.ly/t5F7rv) Top stories today via @alisoniredale @martin\_sepion @philha\_rsc". Sent Thu 26 Jan 09:45 via Paper.li.
  - Profile: jennymooresocen (38 followers). Tweet: "RT @AndyPena RT @alisoniredale: [bbc.in/yS1u0o](http://bbc.in/yS1u0o) Creativity is just as vital in science and engineering as it is in art and drama". Sent Thu 26 Jan 08:03 via HTC Peep.
- New Followers:**
  - Profile: bilikisu awokoya ayo (bilikisuawokoya) (1029 followers). Bio: "Leadership in education. The philosophy of discovery. Admin., teaching experience in elementary, J.H., H.S., Community College, University. Love".
  - Profile: Kirsty (KPL2011) (63 followers). Bio: "Teacher / love going to the theatre / love going on holiday / really enjoy reading".
  - Profile: Richard Nelson (geordie\_online) (93 followers).

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# Lists

*Active educators*

246 members



**Education** by Going Global 2012

499 members



**CanadianEducators** by demacisaac

*Canadian educators on twitter*

44 members



**purposed** by Martin Hawksey

*The 'What's the purpose of education?' - <http://purposed.org.uk/>*



# Followers



The screenshot shows a Twitter profile page with a large grid of follower avatars on the left and a list of followed accounts on the right. The grid is titled "YOUR friends on YOUR background" and includes a "Twilk.com" logo. The list of followed accounts includes:

- Matthew Ewens** @mattewensRSCSW  
Information Officer for the JISC RSC South West, I run the RSCSouthWest twitter feed, tweets do not necessarily reflect JISC Advance Policy
- IHE Exchange** @IHE\_Exchange  
We provide market intelligence on int'l higher edu. to the academic community. Follow us for updates on student mobility, decision-making & edu. policy.
- Emma Borkin** @emmaborkin  
live for the moment life is short
- Mark Russell** @MarkRussell  
Interested in Blended Learning, Assessment, Fishing and Exercise (again)
- Alan Hogan** @hoganal  
Clare VEC Fetac QA facilitator, FETAC External Authenticator, Engineer, Technology geek, news junkie, music lover.
- Edwin Johnson** @EdwinJohnson3

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# What the literature tells us

- Emerging professional use of Facebook (Hart and Steinbrecher, 2011)
- Used to communicate with known individuals; potential for privacy risks (Hew, 2010)
- Potential for use by students to organise classroom experiences (Lampe, Wohn, Vitak, Ellison and Wash, 2011)
- Opportunity for professionals to network and share ideas (Rutherford, 2010)
- ‘Connectivism’: different platforms, different purposes (Bell, 2011)

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# What Next?



- Collecting qualitative and quantitative data on usage of Northern College Facebook page
- Continuing to read, communicate and network via Twitter
- Possible future academic research collaboration

## **What does the future hold for Pedagogy 2.0?**

# Resistance is futile?

 Update status  Add photo/video  Ask question

What's on your mind?

What's happening? ×

  Bradford, Bradford

140

Tweet

# References



Bell, F (2011) Connectivism: its place in theory-informed research and innovation in technology-enabled learning in *The International Review of Research in Open and Distance Learning* March 2011 [UK Online] retrieved 29.1.12 from <http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/902/1664%2C%20http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/902/1664>

Hart, J and Steinbrecher, T (2011) OMG! Exploring and Learning from Teachers' Personal and Professional Uses of Facebook in *Action in Teacher Education* 33.4 [UK Online] retrieved 16.1.12 from Taylor and Francis Online

Hew, K (2010) Students' and Teachers' Use of Facebook in *Computers in Human Behaviour* [UK Online] retrieved 16.1.12 from <http://odevler.unalcakiroglu.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/face.pdf>

Lampe, C Wohn, DY Vitak, J Ellison, NB Wash, R (2011) Student use of Facebook for organising collaborative classroom activities in *Computer-Supported Collaborative Learning* 6:329-347 [UK Online] retrieved 13.1.12 from [http://michiganstate.academia.edu/vitak/Papers/561105/Student\\_use\\_of\\_Facebook\\_for\\_organizing\\_collaborative\\_classroom\\_activities](http://michiganstate.academia.edu/vitak/Papers/561105/Student_use_of_Facebook_for_organizing_collaborative_classroom_activities)

Rutherford, C (2010) Facebook as a Source of Informal Teacher Professional Development in *InEducation* [UK Online] retrieved 16.1.12 from <http://www.ineducation.ca/article/facebook-source-informal-teacher-professional-development>

Wheeler, S. (2012) Me or the community?. *Learning with 'e's*, [blog] 21/01/2012, Available at: <http://steve-wheeler.blogspot.com/2012/01/me-or-community.html> [Accessed: 29/01/12].