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Learning to give in a network context: applying theories of the gift to examine reciprocal exchanges in learning networks

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Abstract

In this paper, we draw on theories of the gift and gift exchange (Mauss, 1954, Bourdieu and Wacquant, 1992) to examine how network participants learn to become generous with one another in three learning network contexts. In this paper, we offer fresh theoretical insights as to how the concept of the gift and gift exchange can enhance our understanding of the mechanics of learning networks. From a practical standpoint, this paper also promises valuable insights into how network participants can reflect on their participation to maximise the benefits reaped from learning networks.