Recentering open for those at the margins: × three lenses on lurking

Caroline Kuhn, Leo Havemann, Suzan Koseoglu, Aras Bozkurt, and Sue Watling

#OER19 Galway #lurkerexp <u>abstract</u> *

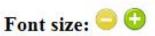
Questioning the meaning of lurking

- The group formed around the <u>#HEdigID slow chat</u> that Suzan led. The chat went on much longer than the planned one day. Some participants were present or dipping in and out, without saying anything.
- We began to think about the meaning of lurking, or **silent or invisible participation** is it participation?

Questioning the meaning of lurking

lurk 中文解釋 wordnet sense Collocation Usage

Verb /lərk/, 뼺



lurked, past tense; lurks, 3rd person singular present; lurked, past participle; lurking, present participle;

1. (of a person or animal) Be or remain hidden so as to wait in ambush for someone or something

- a ruthless killer still lurked in the darkness

2. (of an unpleasant quality) Be present in a latent or barely discernible state, although still presenting a threat

- fear *lurks* beneath the surface

- he lives with a *lurking* fear of exposure as a fraud
- 3. Read communications on an electronic network without making one's presence known

....As a term is lurking just matter of fact or is it pejorative?

Your own experience

- **1.** Form pairs. Can you think about ONE online learning space where you are a **resident by choice**.
- 2. Can you now think about ONE online learning space where you are a **resident because it is required** or it is an expectation.
- Discuss: How do you feel about your participation? What kinds of activities do you do there? Optional: send us a tweet about 1, 2 or both <u>#lurkerexp</u> (5 min)
- **4.** Feed back to whole group (5 min)

Extending experience (readings)

In this section we aim at exploring the ideas of <u>Frances Bell</u>, <u>Sue Watling</u> and <u>Sherri Spelic</u>, they have written about lurking from different perspectives.

The readings are also on this **<u>Padlet wall</u>**.

- **1.** Form three large groups
- 2. Each group will focus on one of the readings (15 min)
- **3.** Feedback, group discussion (5 min)

Three lenses on lurking - towards a framework

1 Lurking as troublesome

- The ones who lurk are maybe doing it as a conscious act of resistance, but maybe they are in such a position that they do not have the capabilities or the will to participate. Digital literacies as troublesome knowledge, lurkers in a liminal space, moving towards the capabilities they need to participate proactively.
- In which case: for whom is it troublesome? What is troublesome, the lurker's experience, or the outsider perceiving the lurker?

2 Lurking as political

What if we further problematise lurking, thinking of it as a voluntary act, as an act of resistance, as an answer to some kind of transgression? Understanding lurking from a *political* lens forces us to look at (uneven/unbalanced) social structures and relations in education. But is it a deliberate and conscious act of resistance? Is lurking an action or a reaction that has not yet been internalised in all its magnitude? What are learners resisting? Do they know, critically, what is bothering them?

3 Lurking as ordinary

This lens challenges the *othering* of 'the lurker', the use of this term to identify a category of persons, the privileging of the visible and measurable over the invisible and the non-measurable. It obscures the potential value of reading, reflecting, and other solitary, often unseen learning activities. What if we understand lurking as a normal, mundane and necessary behaviour that any learner or participant engages in online spaces, part of the time?

Thinking about lurking with a framework

Using the three lenses for thinking about lurking where would you place your view?

Please add your thoughts to this <u>padlet</u>

https://padlet.com/caroline_kuhn13/lurkingexp

(and/or send more **<u>#lurkerexp</u>** tweets)

Thank you!