



e/merge africa

*unleashing
the power
of networks*

Networking among educational technologists in Africa

RISE Annual Meeting 2013

Tony Carr

Centre for Educational Technology

University of Cape Town



Educational Technologists in African Universities

- Explosion of eLearning projects in African Universities
- Rapidly growing profession in large continent
- Limited local community for specialists
- Need for formal, informal and semi-formal professional development opportunities

Topics

- Communities of practice
- e/merge online conference
- Scoping the network
- Moving into e/merge Africa
- What might be useful for RISE

Different Kinds of Community

1. Task Based
2. Practice Based
3. Knowledge Based

Riel and Polin (2004)

Theoretical Underpinning

- Educators as individuals
- Educators learning in community

“groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.” Wenger, McDermott and Snyder 2002 p4



Diagram by Stacey Stent after E Wenger

Importance of CoP for Educators

- support to “both existing and new staff as they move into an unknown educational future.” Viskovic 2003 (p9)
- “ the means to bridge the gap between advanced staff development and authentic learning by teachers in the university classroom.” Ingram and Goody 2002 (p353)



Good Practices in Virtual CoP

Critical success factors include:

- The technology and its usability
- Communication
- Founders with prior knowledge of each other
- A sense of belonging
- A sense of purpose
- Netiquette, modelling and guidelines for good conduct
- Use of accessible language
- Time to build up a rapport, trust and the fostering of a sense of community

Gannon-Leary and Fontainha (2007)

Interaction at the Boundary



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/snej/2282470339/>

Starting with Online Conferences



Online conference

“a structured, time delineated, professional education event that is organised and attended on the Internet by a distributed population of presenters and participants who interact synchronously and/ or asynchronously by using online communication and collaboration tools.”

Anderson and Anderson 2010, p15.

e/merge - Purpose


“The conference is primarily designed to share good practice and knowledge about educational technology innovation within the further and higher education sectors in the region, as well as to strengthen communities of researchers and practitioners.”

e/merge - process



Farewell **Welcome** **Phase 1** **Phase 2** **Phase 3** **Phase 4**

Phase 2




Systems and Strategies

 **Papers** for this phase



Keynotes

 Victor Mbarika
 Yacine Atif




Discussion Forums

 Phase 2 Forums
 Open Space Forum
 Cafe Forum



Wednesday, 11 July

 **3pm** Connected Teacher Toolkit (recording)
 **4pm** Keynote (recording) by Victor Mbarika

Thursday, 12 July

 **11am** Paper by Jerome Dooga (recording)
 **1pm** Paragogy Workshop
 **3pm** Facilitator Practices Workshop (recording)

Friday, 13 July

 **2pm** Keynote by Yacine Atif (recording)
 **3pm** Connected Teacher Toolkit (recording)

Nature of engaged participant experience

- Interaction across time and space
- Scope for reflective engagement
- Access to the community
- Learning about online interaction

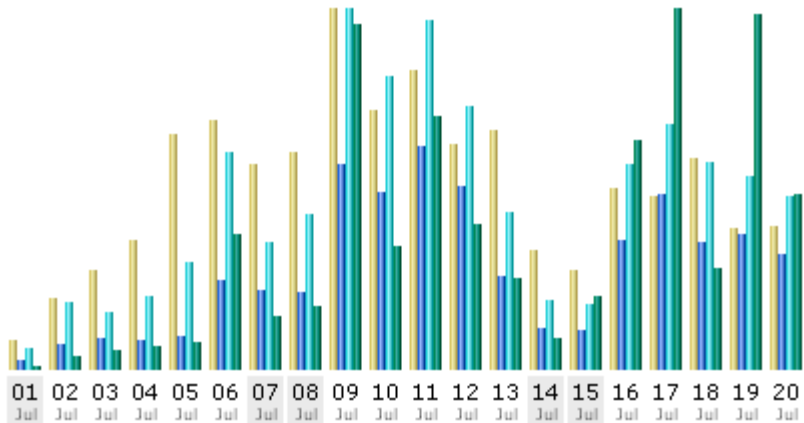
Overview

Five Keynotes

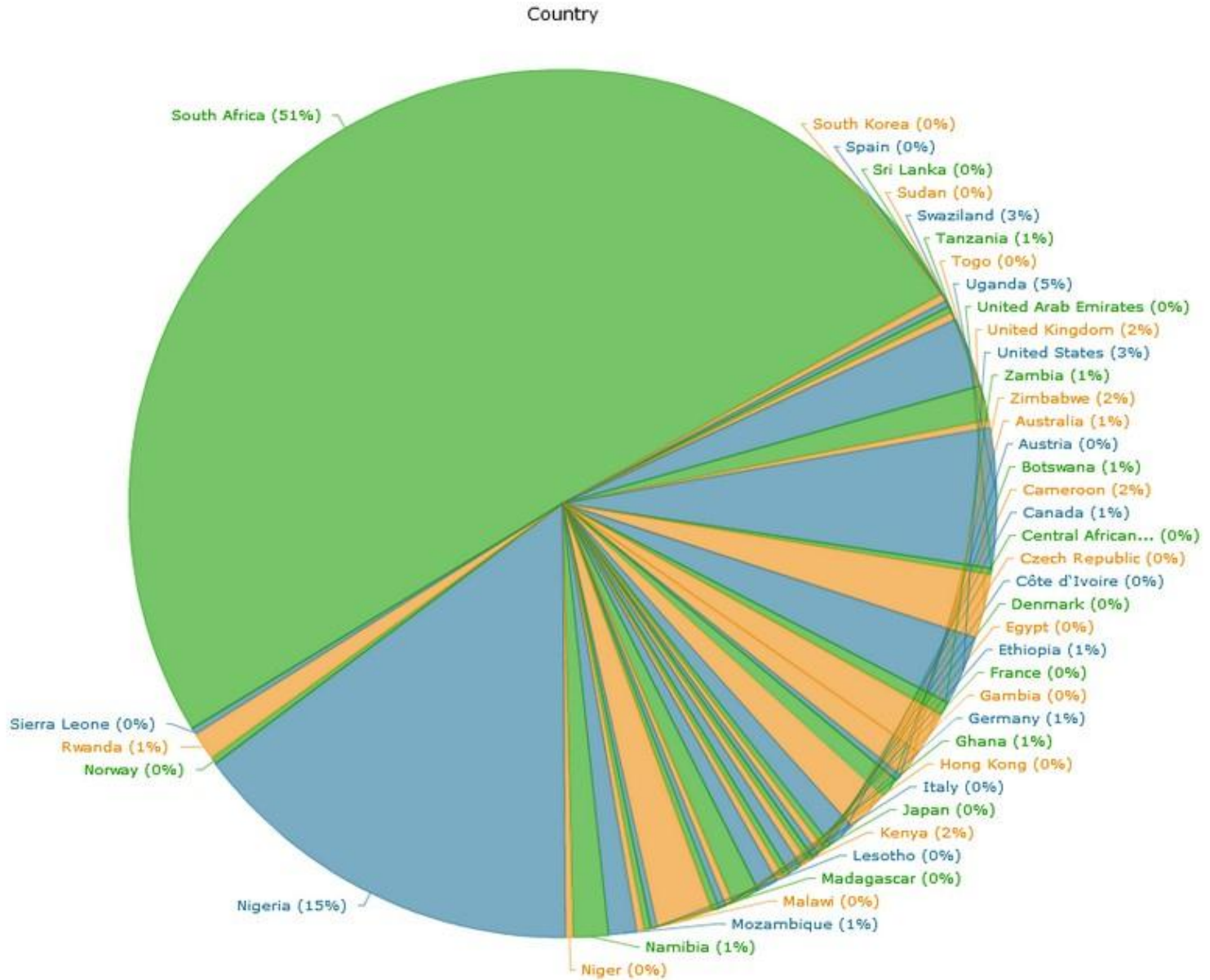
32 Presentations

Six online workshops

- 383 registered delegates
- 131 posted in the forums
- 202 participated in live meetings
- 268 in the Facebook group
- 66 visible in Facebook



We have e/merged!



Our Top 10

Rank	Country	Participants	Percentage
1	South Africa	194	50.7
2	Nigeria	57	14.9
3	Uganda	20	5.2
4/5	USA	10	2.6
4/5	Swaziland	10	2.6
6	United Kingdom	9	2.4
7	Kenya	8	2.1
8/9	Zimbabwe	6	1.6
8/9	Cameroon	6	1.6
10	Tanzania	5	1.3

Live Online Meetings



The Facebook Group



e/merge 2012 About Events Photos Files Notifications

Write post Add photo/video Ask question Upload file

Write something...

289 members (14 new)
+ Add friends to group

People you may know See All

- David Allan**
Add Friend
- Percy Muwesi Nantambi** (Muwesi)
1 mutual friend
Add Friend
- Nii Quaynor**
7 mutual friends
Add Friend

Sponsored Create an advert

Tony Carr
Sometimes I feel like an old fashioned online discussion forum guy ;) Please share your farewell messages to the e/merge 2012 participants here or in the Farewells forum ... or even both
<http://emerge2012.net/live/discussionforum/forum/cafe-forums/farwells>

Farewells - Emerge2012
emerge2012.net

Like · Comment · Unfollow post · Share · about an hour ago near Cape Town

Kafui Mutinta Aheto Great reading and being part of the course.
34 minutes ago · Like

Write a comment...

Our use of Twitter

Results for #emergeafrica



Tweets [Top](#) / [All](#) / [People you follow](#)



Laura Czerniewicz @Czernie

5m

That was fun. I enjoyed the #emergeafrica keynote on changing scholarship's implications for educational researchers, great questions ta!

[Expand](#)



Derek Moore @weblearning

17m

Adobe Connect, my old friend, thanks for only bombing out towards the end of this afternoons #emergeafrica presentation

[Expand](#)



nancyrubin @nancyrubin

43m

RT @weblearning: If it's not available online, then it does not exist. #emergeafrica

[Expand](#)



Derek Moore @weblearning

49m

If it's not available online, then it does not exist. #emergeafrica

[Expand](#)



Nicola Pallitt @nicolapallitt











1h

Listening to @Czernie @emergeAfrica speaking about open scholarship & what it means for African universities #emergeafrica


[Expand](#)

The e/merge party

Going (33)

-  Tony Carr (Host)
-  Gabriel Konayuma
-  Vicki Trowler
-  Kinsley Ngwa
-  Derek Moore
-  Stewart Marshall
-  Gurmit Singh
-  Wondwossen Mulugeta
-  Alice Goodwin-Davey
-  Cheryl Lee Brown

Maybe (3)

-  Emma Kiselyova




e/merge party

Public event · By Tony Carr


📅 Today ⌚ What time?


📍 Online





☰ Bring some music from your country or globally you'd like to share in an e/merge 2012 online conference party. Include a url or the embed code eg from a You Tube music vid and say a bit about why you chose it. Maximum of two suggestions per person

 Write post  Add photo/video  Ask question

Write something...

**Travis Noakes**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEEnKe7G-fU>
'Hi A Ma (Pata Pata)' in ZA house! Milk and Sugar's 2011 remix of Miriam Makeba's classic, set to dancing elephants, giraffes, flamingos and their illustrated friends. Put on full-screen, turn up your speakers and get your groove on :) ...

**Milk & Sugar feat. Miriam Makeba - Hi a Ma (Pata Pata) [OFFICIAL VIDEO HD]**
www.youtube.com
Il follow up del tormentone "Hey (Nah Neh Nah)" arriva finalmente su X-Energy . Il duo Milk & Sugar

 Unlike ·  Comment ·  Follow post ·  Share · 8 minutes ago

What does it take?

Presenters

Reviewers

Passionate Participants

Design for Purpose

Web developer/s

Project Manager

Convenor

Online facilitators

Social Media Expert/s

Technical Support



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Scoping the Network



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tonycarr/5791118963/in/set-72157626871087566/>



Balance needed

structure
and
flexibility



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/choconancy/5613817067/>

Networks and Communities

- Networks AND communities
- Interweaving and intermorphing
- Will e/merge Africa be a network or community?



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ka-sei/4750370030/sizes/m/in/photostream/>



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kubina/471164507/>

Strategic Options for pilot eLearning Network activities

- Start large or small?
- Start fast or slow?
- Formal or grassroots?

- Purpose/s?
- Resources?
- Capacity?
- Leadership?



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/kalexanderson/5268196356/sizes/m/in/photostream/>

Good Practices Report

Draft Report version 3

Good Practices for Online Professional Networks and Communities

Alice Barlow-Zambodla

South African Institute for Distance Education

Tony Carr

Centre for Educational Technology

University of Cape Town

Message of Support



Nnenna Nwakanma

My message at e/merge Africa Launch:

"We have come this far by sheer will, trudging a long and winding way;

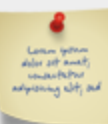
We will go further than today, blazing a bright and upward trail;

Opening doors in education pulling down gates that kept us submerged

Raising resources offline and offline, for an Africa that will e/merge"

Unleashing the power of networks

Our first seminar, *eLearning Fellowships as an Online Learning Strategy*, ends on **Friday, 28 September at 5pm (GMT+2)**. The presentation (*Narrated-40MB / Powerpoint-1MB*) remains available to registered members of this site. The online *discussion forum* will stay open for closing messages until 5pm (GMT+2) on 30 September 2012 and will then be available as an archive.



Don't forget to update your profile. You can access your personal information, notifications and account settings at the top right of any page.

OUR MEMBERS



TWITTER #EMERGEAFRICA

No new tweets to display at the moment.

FACEBOOK



Tony Carr

December 4, 2012 at 1:52 pm

The Open Learning Design Studio in the UK is convening a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on "Learning Design for a 21st Century Curriculum". The course will run from 10th January to 13th March 2013. Participation is free. If you have never participated in a MOOC then this is an excellent opportunity to start!

"This free, open and online course (MOOC) has been designed with further and higher education professionals in mind - lecturers, qualification teams, awarding bodies, learning technologists, library and student support staff and learning and teaching specialists - but may also be of interest to teachers (or teachers to be) in secondary schools or informal/work based

RECENT POSTS



Mari on [Introducing Ourselves](#)

October 2, 2012, 9:06 pm



Mari on [Introducing Ourselves](#)

October 2, 2012, 8:53 pm



Jolanda on [The eLearning Fellowships Day 2 and Day 3](#)

October 2, 2012, 2:21 pm



e/merge AFRICA on [You're not alone!](#)

October 2, 2012, 9:21 am



ADEJARE on [You're not alone!](#)

October 2, 2012, 1:12 am

RECENT FORUM TOPICS

[Building sustainable eLearning systems](#)

From seminar participants

- I especially like the idea of using the emerge Africa Group Facebook Page to create awareness and provide very timely and useful information well in advance.
- Knowledge, experience and networking sharing is real in this seminar, and should be sustained
- Who knew I would find great examples, provocative questions and elegant poetry!

Plans for 2013 - 2016

- Ongoing online network focused on use of educational technology in African universities
- Regular online seminars and workshops
- Online courses
- Periodic online conferences
- Exploring viability of face to face

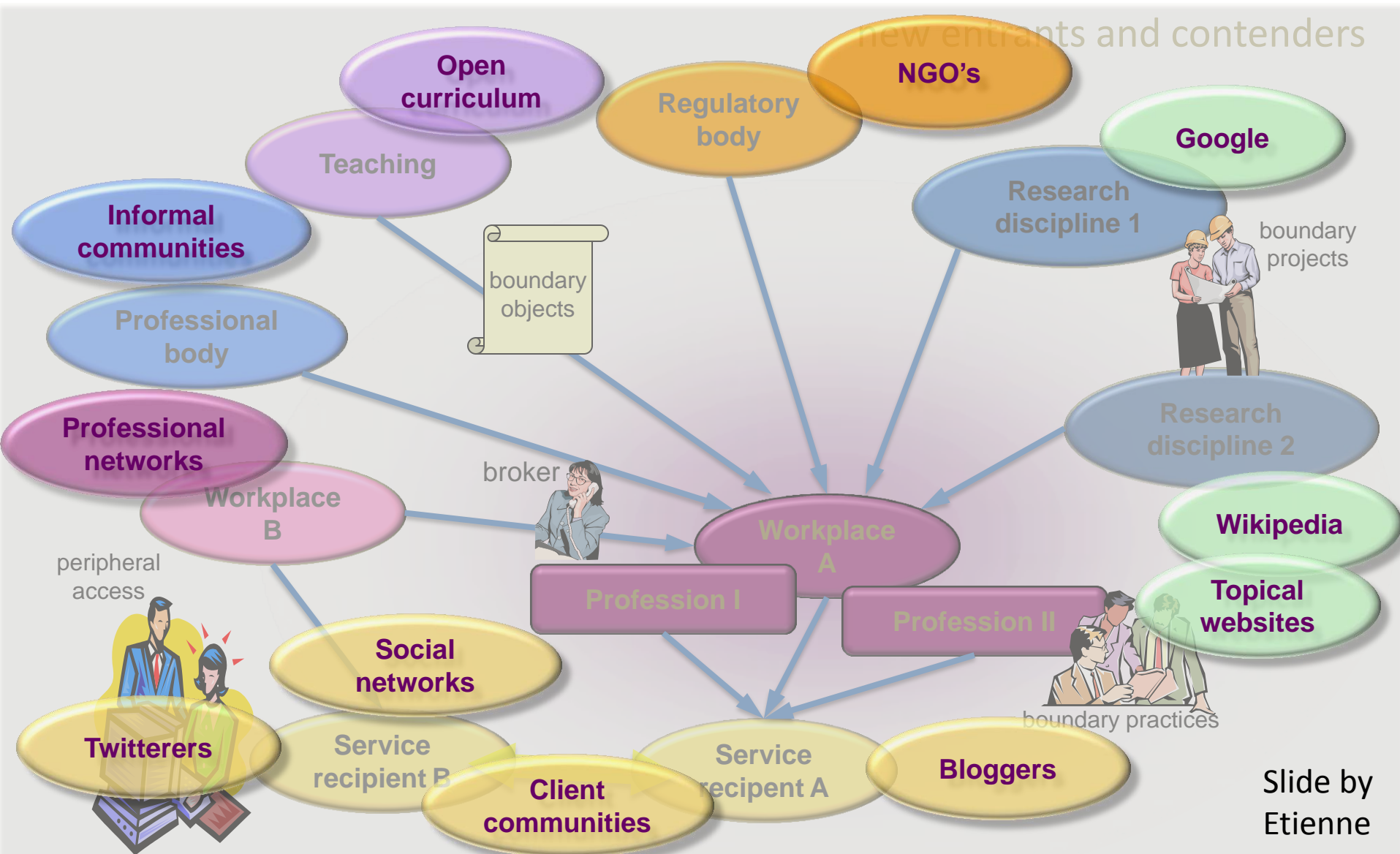
Potential Applications for RISE

- The network of networks
- Focus on shared areas of learning within and across networks
- Research capacity development
- Emerging practices in Research and Science education
- Facilitating conversation across sectors in a landscape of practices

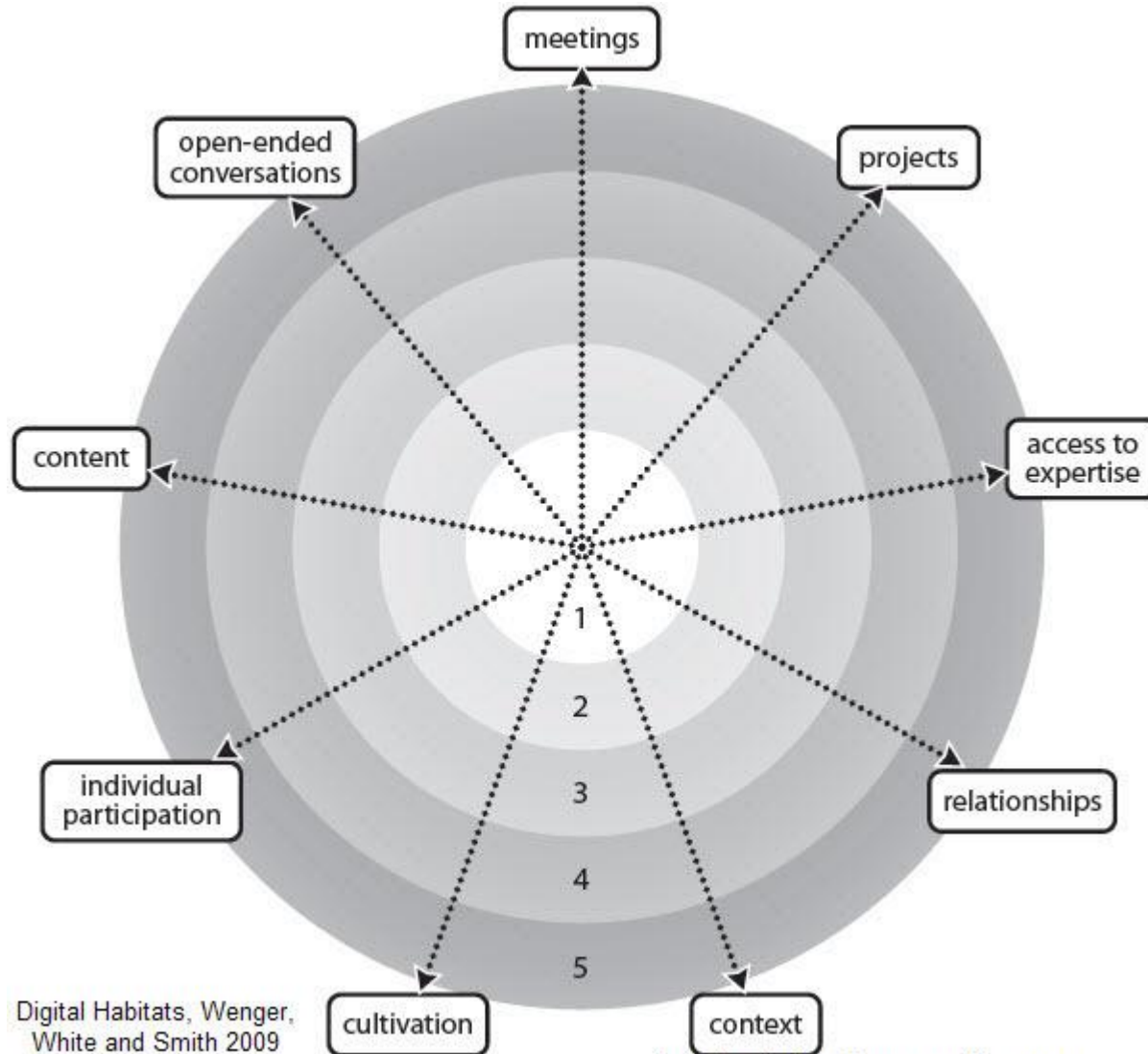
The Landscape of Practices

communities of practice “constitute a complex social landscape of shared practices, boundaries, peripheries, overlaps, connections and encounters” (Wenger 1998:118). At a pragmatic level each community exists within a landscape that includes all related practices.

A complexifying landscape of practice



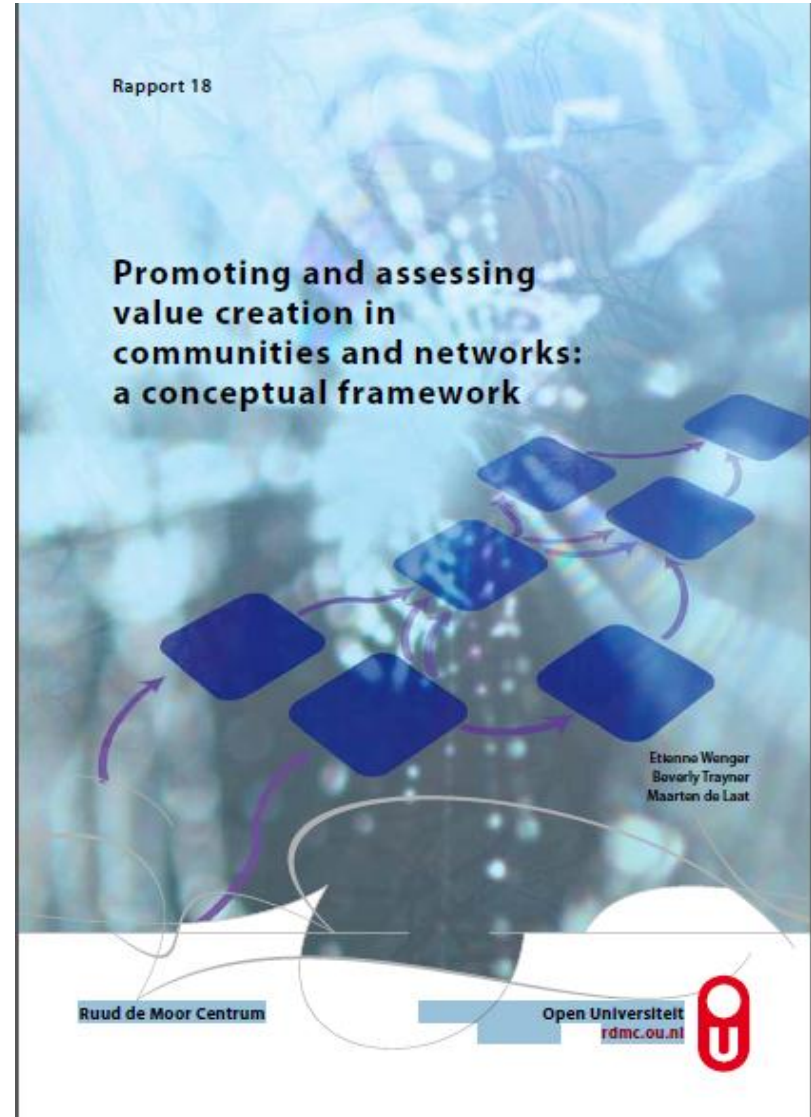
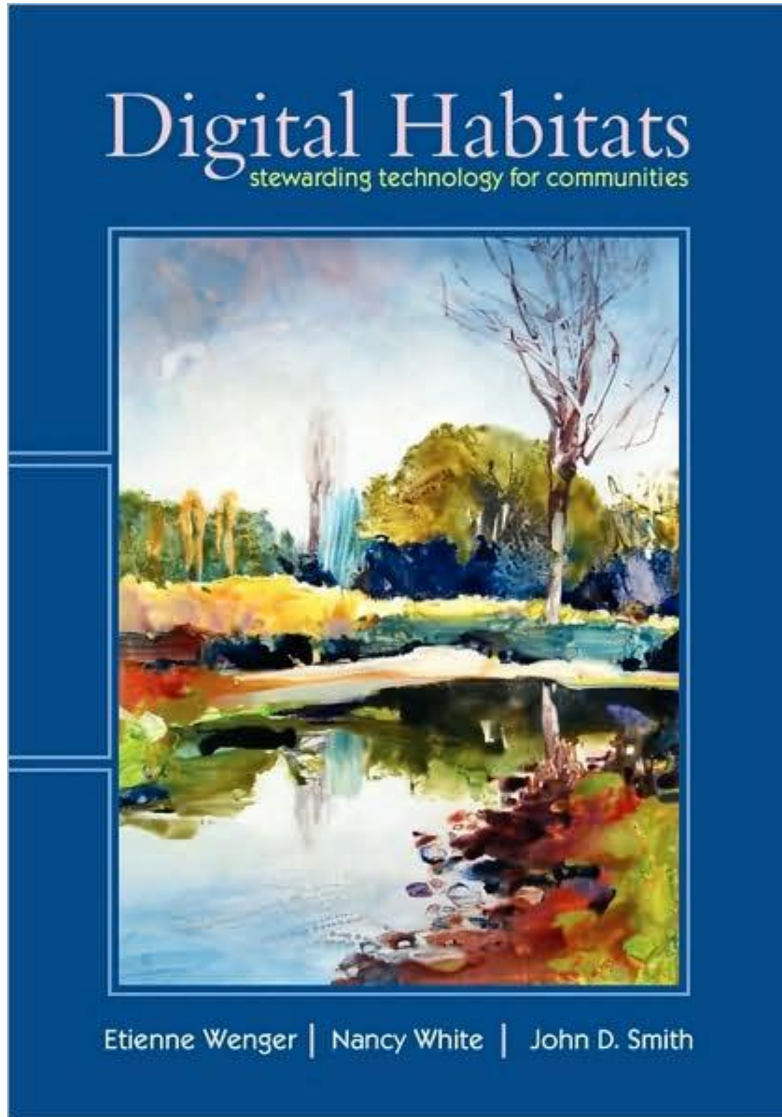
Community Orientations



Digital Habitats, Wenger,
White and Smith 2009

<http://technologyforcommunities.com>

Some useful resources



Thanks to our Funders



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e/merge africa

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twitter: #emergeafrica

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