

The posthuman university? Hybrid spaces and literacy practices.

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Overview

1. Ubiquitous technologies in HE
2. Posthuman university, cyborg literacies?
3. The VLE and the lecture
4. 'Plagiarism' and the writing subject
5. Conclusions & discussion

Centrality of representation

- Academic literacies as situated social practices (e.g. Lea & Stierer 2009)
- Language, text and identity work (e.g. Ruth 2008)
- Foucauldian understandings of discourse in the academy (e.g. Smith 2008)
- Semiotics & multimodality (Kress & van Leeuwen 2003)
- Cultural studies approaches (e.g. Archer 2008)



www.cearta.ie/2009/06/laptop-fever/

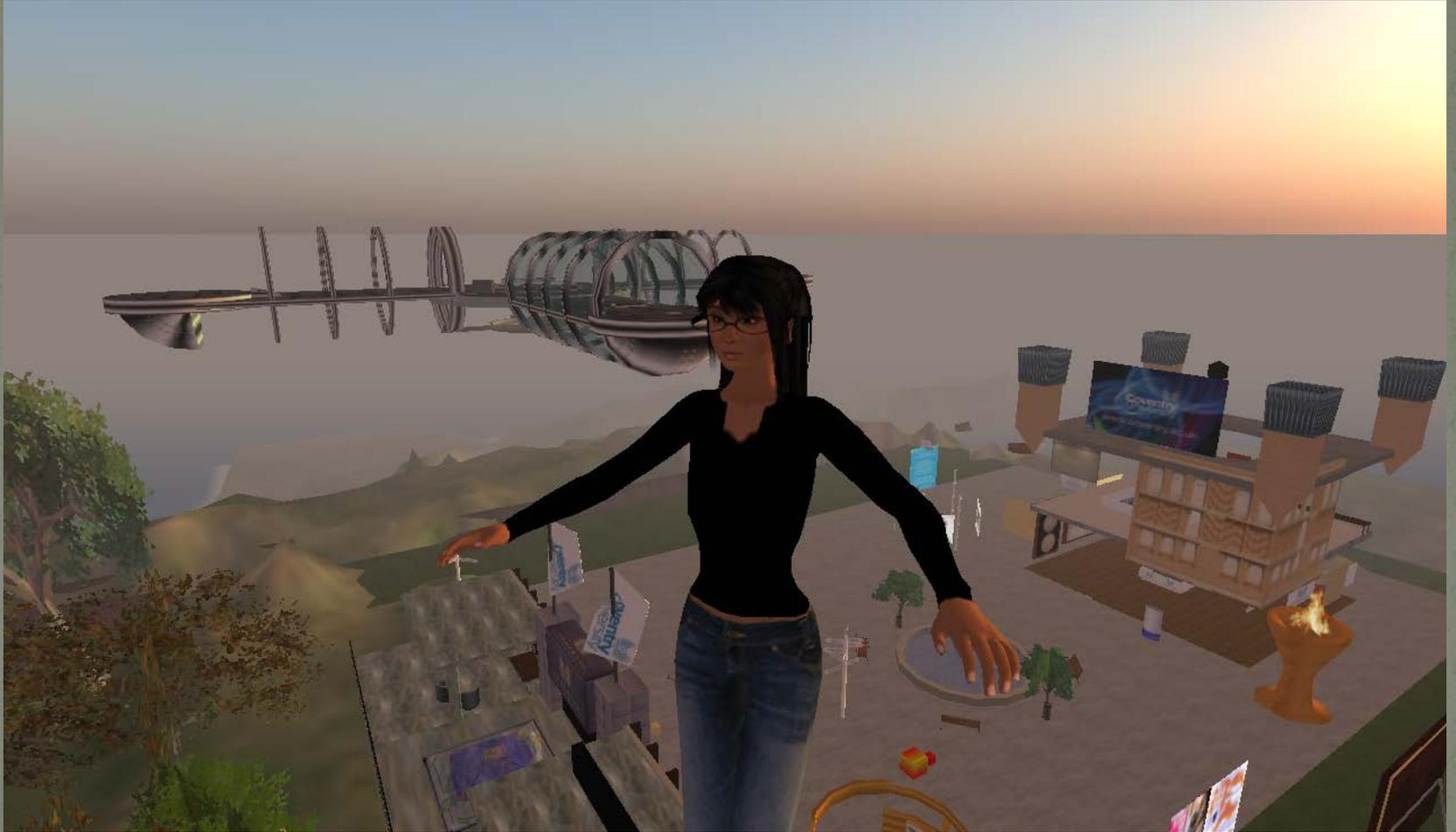








www.napier.ac.uk





File Edit View World Tools Help Coventry University 140, 132, 37 (PG) - Coventry University

3:57 AM PDT L\$0 Search

- Drag to move, shift-drag to copy
- Position
- Rotate (Ctrl)
- Stretch (Ctrl-Shift)
- Select Texture
- Edit linked parts
- Stretch Both Sides
- Stretch Textures
- Use Grid
- Options...

Ruler mode: World << Less

General Object Features Texture Content

Name: Object

Description:

Creator: Badger Bombastic Profile...

Owner: Badger Bombastic Profile...

Group: (none) Set...

1 Object, 1 Primitive

Permissions:

You can modify this object.

Share with group Deed...

Allow anyone to move

Allow anyone to copy

Show in search

For Sale Price: L\$ 10

Next owner can:

Modify Copy

How to clean up your things

When Left Clicked:

Touch/grab (default)

Either, right click on the object and select TAKE from the menu, to move it to your inventory, or right click and select MORE > then DELETE to delete the object from Second Life.

Avoid prim wastage today! Make your fellow residents happy residents!
Help reduce prim litter!

Save

Communicate Fly Snapshot Search Build Map Mini-Map Inventory

Distributed identities

The image shows a screenshot of the TweetDeck application interface. The main area is divided into four columns, each displaying a search for a specific hashtag: #condemnation, #ge2010, #labour, and #libdems. Each column contains a list of tweets with user avatars, names, and text. A search overlay window is open in the top right corner, displaying search results for #libdems, including a tweet from Alastair Campbell. The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with various icons and the system clock.

Search: #condemnation

- @ilmigliorfabbro Two wrongs don't make a right. That holds fo for the coalition parties too :-) #ConDemNation
- RT @Sammikaybaby: Is rather happy about this #libdem #conservative government. <<< Glad I'm not alone. #ConDemNation #ge2010
- RT @Greenleftie: RT @Fanfichthursday: Upper-class Tories & Liberals dividing up the spoils. It's nice to be back in the C19th again! #ConDemNation
- Outstanding! The new govt has scrapped the ID card! <http://is.gd/c7mNN> #NO2ID #ConDemNation
- RT @Fanfichthursday: Upper-class Tories & Liberals dividing up the spoils. It's nice to be back in the C19th again! #ConDemNation
- Upper-class Tories & Liberals dividing up the spoils again. It's nice to be back in the C19th again! #ConDemNation
- up to 40 open browser tabs now... 37 for me, one for fun and 3 to get my head around #ConDemNation

Search: #ge2010

- I signed the petition to repeal the Digital Economy Act <http://bit.ly/deapetition> #DEbill #DEAct #GE2010
- RT @mole9: I signed the petition to repeal the Digital Economy Act <http://bit.ly/deapetition> #DEbill #DEAct #GE2010
- I signed the petition to repeal the Digital Economy Act <http://bit.ly/deapetition> #DEbill #DEAct #GE2010
- @daily_politics Can you find more on the 55% "no confidence" vote and also the 200 extra Lords.... are we in a dictatorial gov now? #ge2010
- Peppa's back on the @daily_politics but Andrew puts her back in her sty as she is not needed after all <http://tinyurl.com/2u4y84v> #ge2010
- Can see coalition bust up on the horizon re: raising tuition fees. Not least because #LibDems MPs signed NUS pledge to vote against. #ge2010
- RT @greenpeaceuk: it's now or never: we're backing voting reform. are you? <http://bit.ly/5EYVC> #ge2010 #abotback

Search: #labour

- RT @poblshLab: RT @tristanosborne "NHS Insurance Question": Nick Clegg has called for the NHS to be 'broken up' and said <http://bit.ly/cdK4tn> #labour
- Curious how none of the #Labour or disaffected #LibDem tweets are concerned with the £176bn deficit #coalition #wegov #ukelection
- RT @poblshLab: RT @tristanosborne "NHS Insurance Question": Nick Clegg has called for the NHS to be 'broken up' and said th... <http://bit.ly/cdK4tn> #labour
- @fingerinthewind Don't let Milliband bros stitch up #labour leadership contest!! Come on MP's show some bottle!
- #labour MP accused of homophobic abuse (<http://bit.ly/cQdV8q>) Not2worry though, if the image is anything to go by it happened in the mid-90s
- Don't let Milliband bros stitch up #labour leadership contest!! Come on MP's show some bottle!
- Just got back a HC3 certificate for help with dental treatment costs, and it's an absolute joke. THANKS #LABOUR

Search: #libdems

- Alastair Campbell complains about @nickclegg taking the #LibDems to the right. Bit rich coming from a Blairite!
- RT @markpack: Good news on #LibDems membership: several hundred new members via party website every day since last Thursday
- #LibDems winning 89% of the votes in the #EU Parliament while Tories only 59% (in the small ECR group) <http://bit.ly/9gSoXe> #ukelection
- I wonder how much Clegg got for his granny, wonder if he could get a fair price for mine as am abit skint!! #libdems #ge10 #ukelection
- Funny: #LibDems are the major card of the gvt to play a role on the #EU scene given Tory isolation <http://bit.ly/b6lq1z> #ukelection #ge210
- RT @DolphinHotel: #LibDems in Scotland and NE England: go back to your constituencies and prepare for oblivion

Wrong **Lesley Gourlay**? Search for others: Search



Lesley Gourlay
Send Lesley Gourlay a message | View Lesley Gourlay's friends

- Here are some of **Lesley Gourlay's** friends:
- Lisa Lieberman
 - Sadik Dawoud
 - Claire Wallace
 - Pat Gannon-Leary
 - David Kaye
 - Kate Parr
 - Annette Boon
 - Andrew Brady

Lesley Gourlay is a fan of:
TV programmes
House
The Thick of it

This is your public search listing

Because you are logged in, you can click through to your Profile, but others will need to log in to contact you.

[Edit search privacy settings](#)



<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/HPS/Haraway/CyborgManifesto.html>

How we became posthuman

‘ ...the posthuman view configures human being so that it can be seamlessly articulated with intelligent machines. In the posthuman, there are no essential differences or absolute demarcations between bodily existence and computer simulation, cybernetic mechanism and biological organism, robot teleology and human goals’

(Hayles 1999: 3)

- 'In the posthuman, there is no essential difference or absolute demarcations between bodily existence and computer simulation, cybernetic mechanism and biological organism, robot teleology and human goals' (Hayles 1999: 3)
- the posthuman subject as:
- '...an amalgam, a collection of heterogenous components, a material-informational entity whose boundaries undergo continuous construction and reconstruction' (Hayles 1999:3)

From cyborg to cognisphere

- Katherine Hayles (2006)
- Argues that Haraway's cyborg is powerful metaphor but now 'not *networked* enough' (2006: 159)
- The individual no longer appropriate unit of analysis
- '...incorporation of intelligent machines into everyday practices creates distributed cognitive systems that include human and non-human actors; distributed cognition in turn is linked to a dispersed sense of self...' (2006: 162)

The posthuman university?

- Material university also characterised by hybridity in terms of virtuality, immersion & co-presence.
 - Ubiquitous networks & the VLE
 - Laptops & mobile devices
 - Distributed identities (e.g. Turkle 1995)
 - Fragmentation, the uncanny, smooth vs striated space
Sian Bayne (2008, 2010) (Deleuze & Guattari 1987)

The posthuman university?

- **Immersion, & virtuality & co-presence** are used to theorise Web 2.0 & virtual environments. However, may also have purchase when applied to the wider university

The university as a media system

- 'Elearning' and 'face to face' as false binary
- F2F as 'natural'
- Technologies of mediation , oracy and print literacies
- Lecture room as symbolically charged space
- Printing press unseating academic authority
- Friesen & Cressman (2010) - Kittler (2004)
- Link to current moral panic discourses

Cyborg literacies?

- The screen has superceded the page (Kress & van Leeuwen 2001)
- Virtual worlds require a 'constellation' of literacy practices (Steinkueler 2007)
- Complexity /hybrity demand greater focus on the visual in research (Gourlay 2010) and on 'Cyborg literacies' of students and staff (Gourlay 2011)
- Digital mediation has lead to 'flickering signifiers' (Hayles 1999)

Flickering signification

- 'When narrative functionalities change, a new kind of reader is produced by the text. The material effects of flickering signification ripple outwards...the impatience that some readers now feel with print texts...has a physiological as well as a psychological basis. They miss pushing the keys and seeing the cursor blinking at them... Changes in narrative functionalities are deeper than the structural or thematic characteristics of a particular genre, for they shift the embodied responses and expectations that different kinds of textualities evoke. When new media are introduced, the changes transform the environment as a whole'

(Hayles 1999: 48)

The VLE

- The VLE has changed the temporal and embodied nature of prototypical f2f encounters
- Textual practices surround the 'lecture'
- Event itself is closely bound in a tight network of digitally mediated textual practices.
- Event has become irretrievably permeable to digital mediation
- These factors render the 'f2f' encounter hybrid, multiple and posthuman



'Plagiarism'

- Posthuman reading of 'plagiarism'
- Hybridised, digital, multivocal and distributed textual practices around reading and desk research
- Text itself essentially masquerades as an artefact from print literacies: analogue , positing a stable, single subject as author .



Conclusions

- Ubiquitous networked technologies foreground notions of virtuality, immersion and copresence
- The wider university may be seen as hybrid and *posthuman* in terms of subjectivities and representational practices
- This creates tensions surrounding the notions of:
 - stable and singular textual authorship
 - embodied vs virtual
 - digital vs analogue
 - individual vs distributed

Thank you - any questions?

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