

We built it, but they didn't come: lessons learned from a (not so) social network platform for learning

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Experiences with a Social Learning Environment

Research Framework

1) Technology enhanced learning environments can promote, foster, and support student ownership and autonomy (Clayton & Ardito, 2009; Ardito, 2010; Ardito 2018)



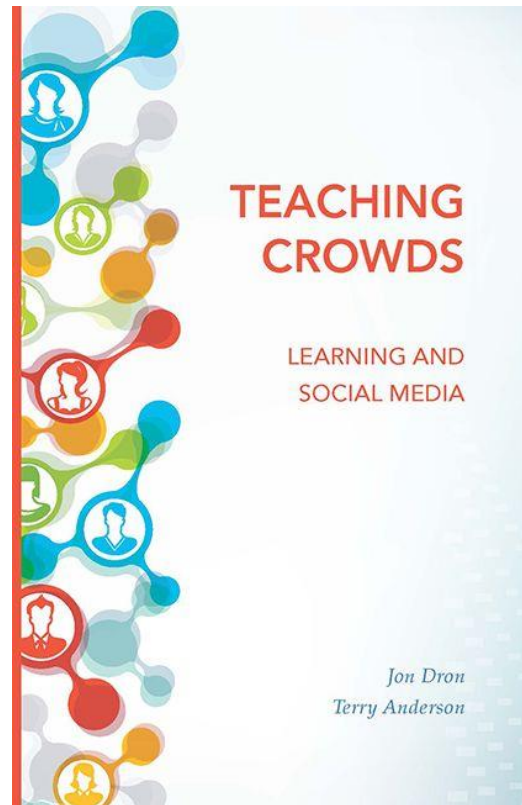
Research Framework

2) There is a positive relationship between the development of (student) learning networks and student achievement.

(Ardito, 2018)



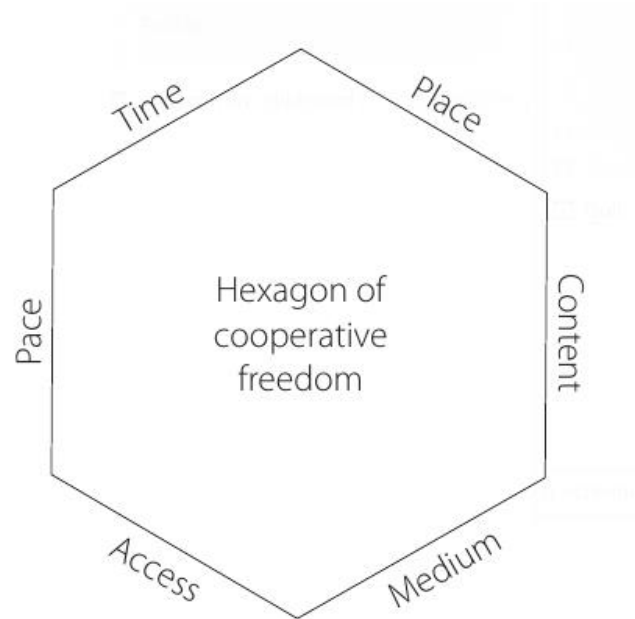
Conceptual Framework



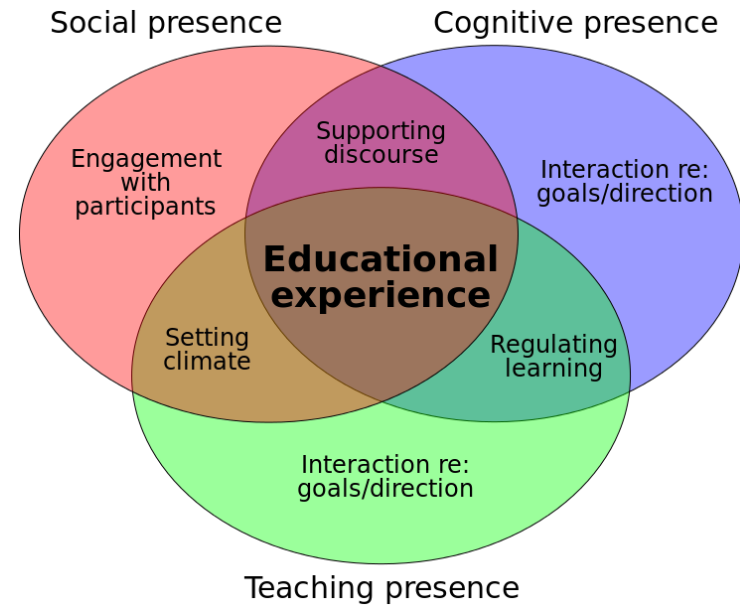
(It's their fault!)



Conceptual Framework



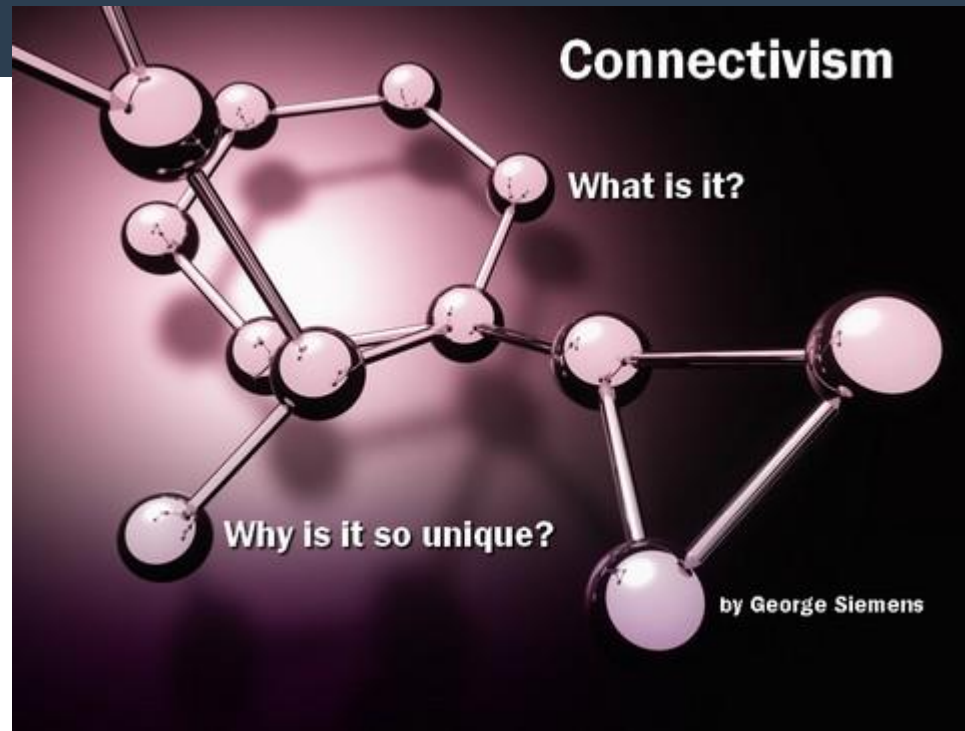
Paulsen's Model of Cooperative Freedoms



Community of Inquiry Model (Garrison, et al.)



Conceptual Framework



- “Connectivism is the thesis that knowledge is distributed across a network of connections, and therefore that learning consists of the ability to construct and traverse those networks.”
- Khatabi & Fouladchang, 2015



Research Questions

- 1) How does participation in a social learning platform shape the work and outcomes of higher ed students?**
- 2) What happens to the role of teacher in this social network learning setting?**



The Platform: Pace Commons

Pace Commons

Explore

You

Groups

Create & Share

Groups

Edit group

Invite users

Create a Sub-Group

Computer Science for Teachers Spring 2019



Description:

Here is the online home for CS for Teachers at Pace University for Spring 2019.

Brief description: Here is the online home for CS for Teachers at Pace University for Spring 2019.

Tags:

 [cs4teachers](#), [spring2019](#)

Owner: [Gerald Ardito](#)

Group members: 11

Closed group

Search



[Computer Science for Teachers Spring 2019](#)

Here is the online home for CS for Teachers at Pace University for Spring 2019.

Closed group

Group activity

Group blog

Group bookmarks

Group calendar

Group discussions

Group files



The Platform: Pace Commons

Pace Commons

Explore

You

Groups

Create & Share

Groups

Computer Science for



Owner: [Gerald Ardito](#)

Write a Blog Post

Share a Bookmark

Upload File(s)

Add a Photo Album

Upload Photos

Add a Pinboard

group

Invite users

Create a Sub-Group

2019

S for Teachers at Pace University for Spring

the online home for CS for Teachers at Pace

Tags:

[cs4teachers](#), [spring2019](#)

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The Platform: Pace Commons

Description

[Embed content](#) [Edit HTML](#)



Tags

cs4teachers, spring 2019, cshistory, Oregon Trail

Access

Public

Save

for Teachers at Pace University
for Spring 2019.
Closed group

- Group activity
- Group blog
- Group bookmarks
- Group calendar
- Group discussions
- Group files
- Group newsletters
- Group pages
- Group photo albums
- Group photos
- Group pinboards
- Group wire posts

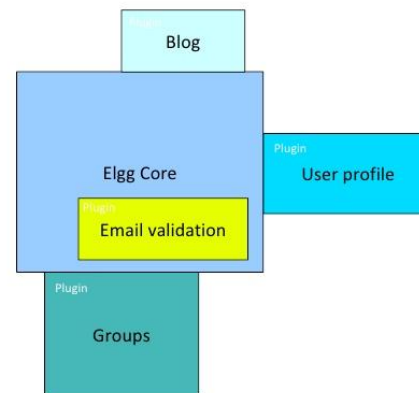
- Get group bookmarklet



Why Elgg?

- **Solid design and architecture**
- **Very customizable**
- **Access options are fluid**

Plugins can modify Elgg core features



The Courses (so far)

- **CS for Educators (online)**
- **Teaching Methods Courses – Adolescent Teaching Methods, Science Teaching Methods (face to face)**
- **Educational Psychology (online)**
- **Learning Environments (online)**



What Was Supposed to Happen



What Actually Happened?



A Tale of Two Courses

The screenshot shows the Pace Commons interface for the group 'TCH 215 Spring 2019'. The page features a blue header with the Pace Commons logo and navigation tabs for 'Explore', 'You', 'Groups', and 'Create & Share'. Below the header, there are buttons for 'Edit group', 'Invite users', and 'Create a Sub-Group'. The main content area includes a search bar, a description of the group, and a list of group activities such as 'Group activity', 'Group blog', 'Group bookmarks', 'Group calendar', 'Group discussions', 'Group files', 'Group newsletters', 'Group pages', 'Group photo albums', 'Group photos', 'Group pinboards', and 'Group wire posts'. The group is owned by Gerald Ardito and has 18 members. A brief description states: 'This is the online home for TCH 215 for Spring 2019.'

- Face to face course
- Undergraduates (sophomores)
- Homogeneous cohort - all teacher candidates

The screenshot shows the Pace Commons interface for the group 'Computer Science for Teachers Spring 2019'. The page features a blue header with the Pace Commons logo and navigation tabs for 'Explore', 'You', 'Groups', and 'Create & Share'. Below the header, there are buttons for 'Edit group', 'Invite users', and 'Create a Sub-Group'. The main content area includes a search bar, a description of the group, and a list of group activities such as 'Group activity', 'Group blog', 'Group bookmarks', 'Group calendar', 'Group discussions', 'Group files', 'Group newsletters', 'Group pages', 'Group photo albums', and 'Group photos'. The group is owned by Gerald Ardito and has 11 members. A brief description states: 'Here is the online home for CS for Teachers at Pace University for Spring 2019.'

- Online course
- Graduate students
- Heterogeneous cohort – novice and advanced ed tech students, literacy specialists



(Fuzzy) Metrics

1) User Feedback and Activity

2) Ratio – Spontaneous Activity and Interactions

- # Spontaneous Posts/Interactions

• _____

3) Social Network Graphs

- # Non-Spontaneous Posts/Interactions



User Feedback

Reported Pros and Cons

- **Pros**

- More natural ways of communicating
- User friendly
- “Feels” better than LMS

- **Cons**

- Too many options/pathways
- What is expected isn't always clear.
- Less structured/predictable than LMS

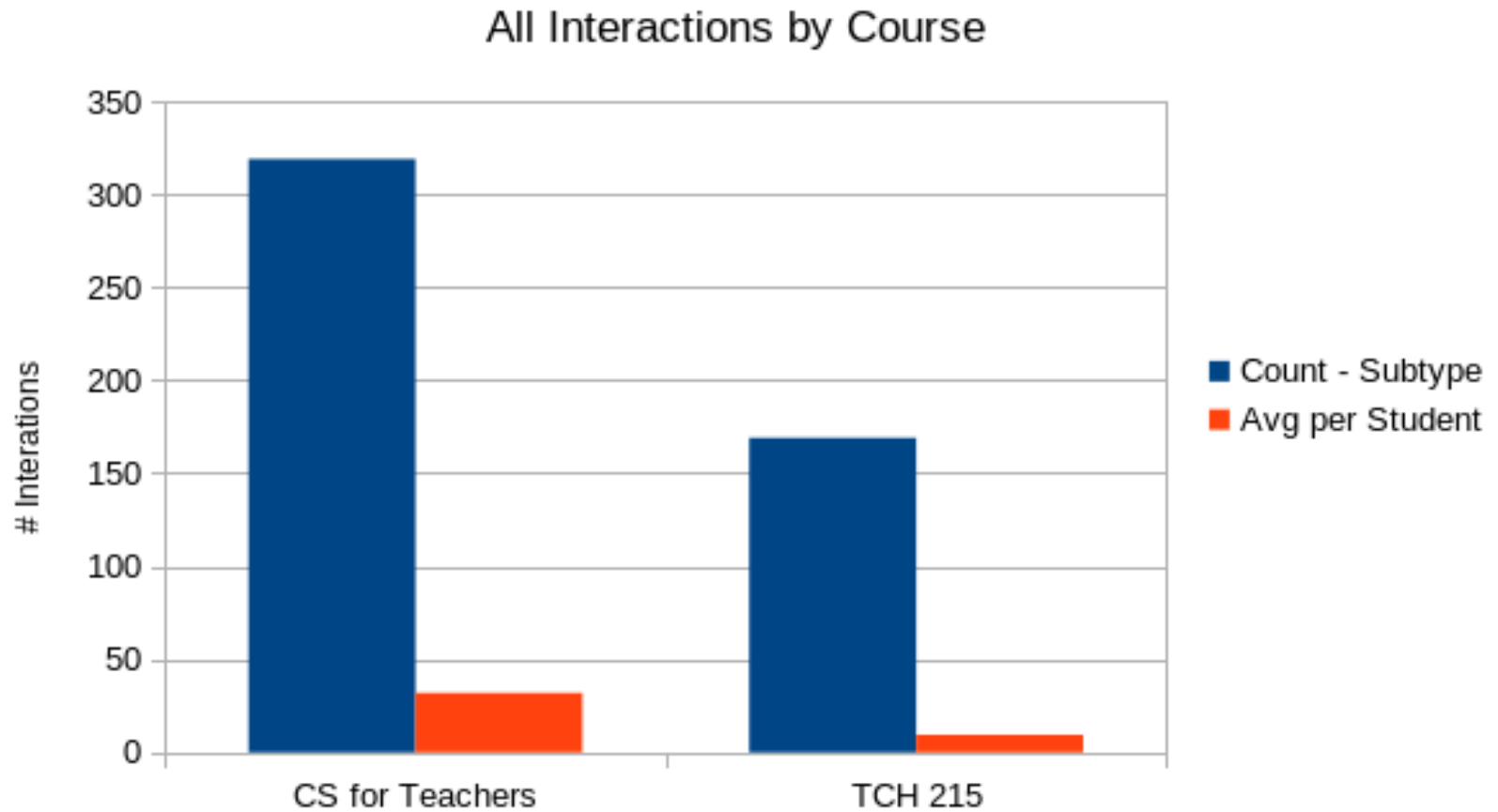


User Activity

Course	User #	# Interactions	Totals	Average Per User
CS for Teachers	38	111		
	9332	40		
	5989	39		
	5987	28		
	9331	23		
	9335	22		
	9333	19		
	9334	15		
	9328	12		
	9337	10		
			319	31.9
TCH 215	38	31		
	9360	16		
	9363	13		
	9353	12		
	9354	11		
	9359	11		
	9357	9		
	9358	9		
	9350	8		
	9361	8		
	9364	8		
	9365	8		
	9366	8		
	9356	6		
	9355	4		
	9362	3		
	9351	2		
	9352	2		
			169	9.4
Total		488		

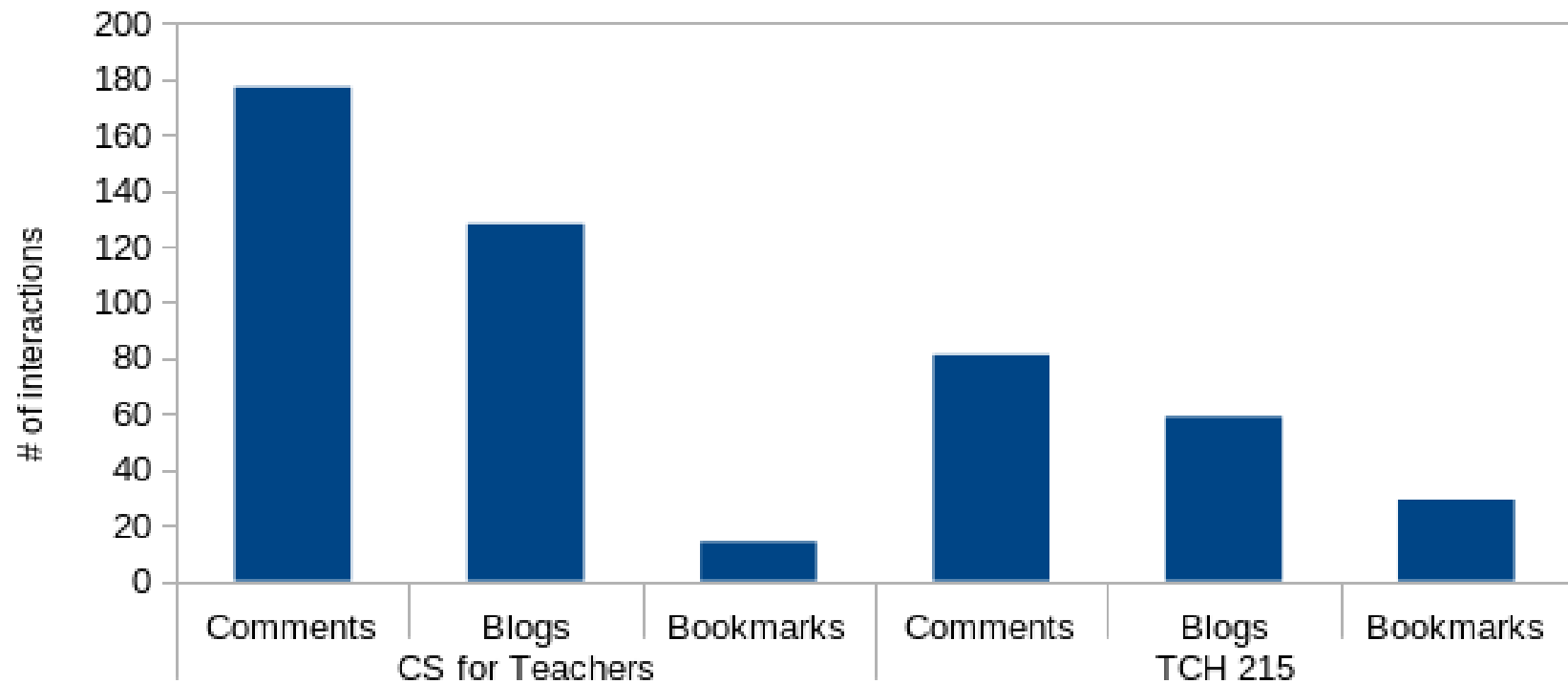


User Activity



User Activity

Types of Interactions by Course



Spontaneous Activity and Interactions

	Totals			Spontaneous	
	CS for Teachers	TCH 215		CS for Teachers	TCH 215
Teacher	111	31		n/a	n/a
Students	208	138		60	2
Totals	319	169	%	29%	1%



Spontaneous Activity and Interactions

Some interpretations

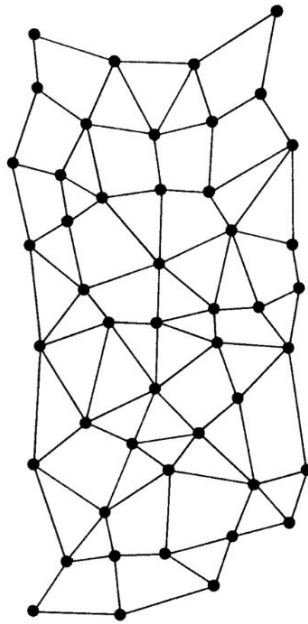
- **CS for Teachers**
 - Most if not all course related interactions are happening online
 - Work was less teacher centered – less content and more application
- **TCH 215**
 - Most if not all course interactions are happening either in person or between friends.
 - Work was content heavy and relied on teacher feedback
 - Students reported more concerns with compliance – doing what they were told – more risk averse



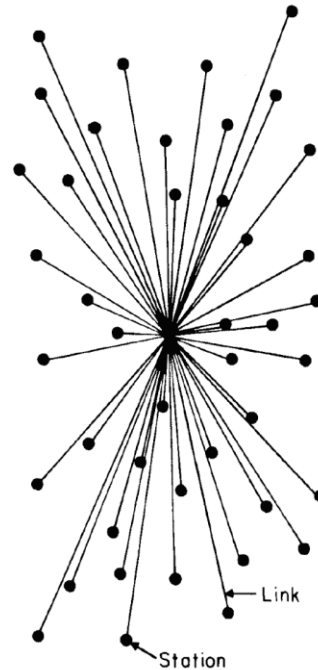
Network Structures

CS for Teachers

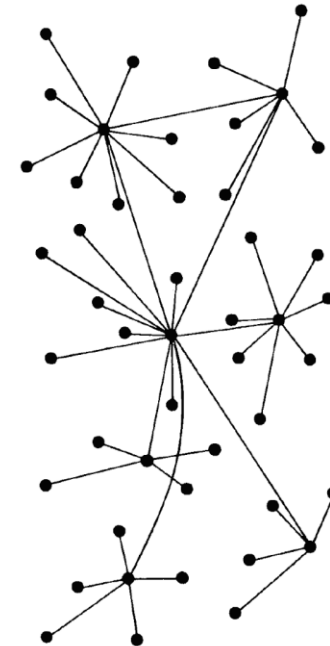
TCH 215



DISTRIBUTED
(C)



CENTRALIZED
(A)



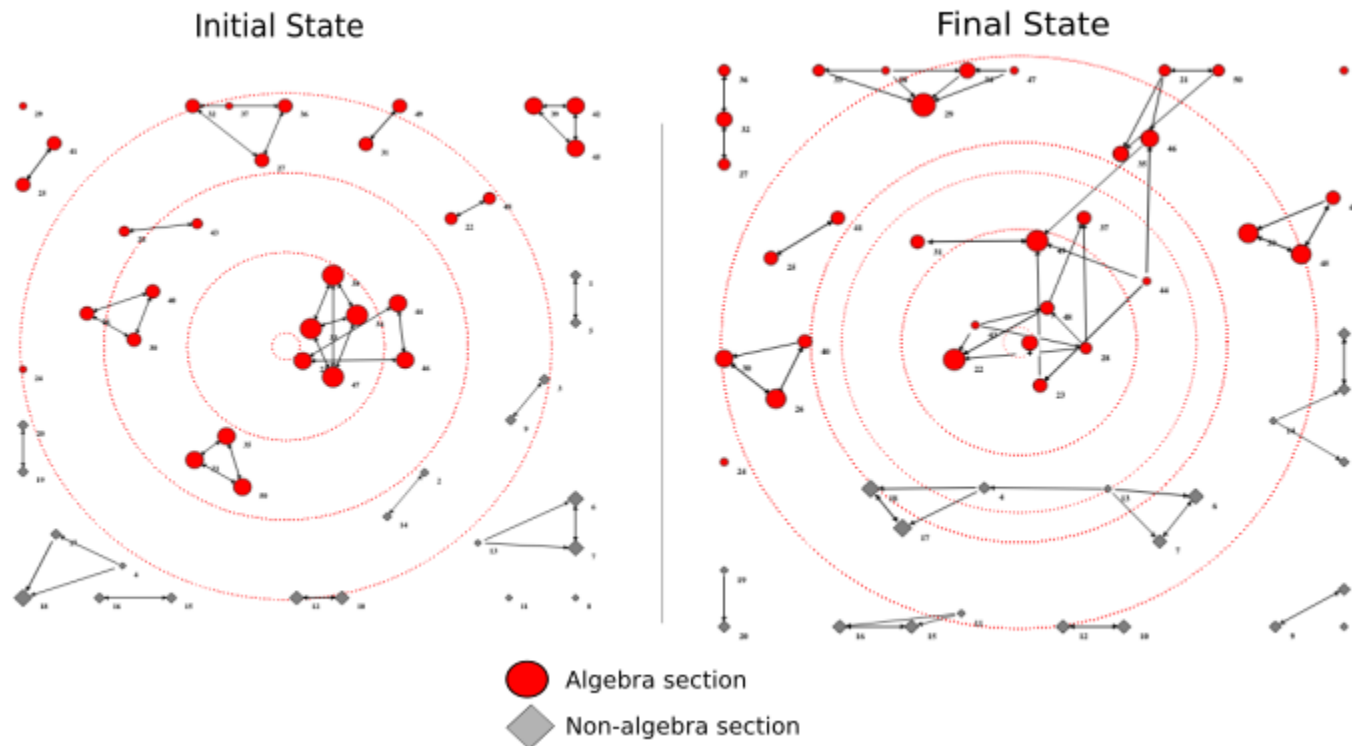
DECENTRALIZED
(B)



Distributed "Teacher Presence"!?



Next Steps: Social Network Analysis



Questions? Comments?



Please be in touch

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- Twitter: geraldardito

