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Assessment and learning engagement in massive open online courses

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Propositions

accompanying the dissertation

Assessment and Learning Engagement in Massive Open Online Courses

Xiaomei Wei, 25 June 2026

1. Assessment goals should be made explicitly at the start of a MOOC to direct learners towards the course' intended learning outcomes. (this dissertation)
2. Insights into autonomous motivation of MOOC learners are essential to understand their learning engagement and perceived learning outcomes. (this dissertation)
3. Without adequate self-regulated learning skills, learners cannot fully learn from MOOCs. (this dissertation)
4. Without taking into account MOOC learners' motivational beliefs, both positive and negative, their learning engagement and perceived learning outcomes cannot be fully understood. (this dissertation)
5. MOOC discussion forums reflect how learners construct knowledge socially. (this dissertation)
6. Learners' higher-order thinking does not arise spontaneously; rather, it requires instructional design that deliberately incorporates activities to elicit such thinking in technology-enhanced environments.
7. The development of self-regulation skills is indispensable for effective learning in technology-enhanced environments, where responsibility for learning is shared between learners and the supportive instructional design for the regulation process.
8. Promoting autonomous motivation of learners is critical in educators' instructional design and delivery practices in technology-enhanced learning, as its absence is associated with lower engagement and learning outcomes.
9. In technology-enhanced environments, learning success depends critically on deep cognitive engagement, which drives meaningful knowledge construction.
10. Successful technology integration supports differentiated learning paths that respond to learners' diverse needs, thereby enabling them to achieve meaningful learning outcomes.
11. Be patient with self-development during the academic journey.
12. Stay healthy, keep exercising, and find joy throughout life.