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A Teacher by Heart and Soul: Case Study of Transporting Practical Training into the Online Space

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A Teacher by Heart and Soul

- Amalgamated course from;
 - A theoretical course; **The teaching profession**
 - A practical course "on the floor"; **The Hot Tub**
- Intention to bring theory into practice and vice versa.
- The practical part consisted of group-work focusing on creating teaching materials and try them out by teaching each other...
 - And share the results.

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The new course

- The theoretical part was more conventional, lecture style...
 - *The aim was inter alia to do philosophical exercises and ignite lively discussions about the theoretical stuff...*
 - *Which is quite easy on site but somewhat more challenging online*
- A significant number of students: 39
 - *Much larger group than we are used to have.*

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Challenges

- When the third wave arrived, we had to move quickly to online teaching.
- We had prior experiences from the spring-lockdown...
 - However, this was a new *and much larger course*.
 - How could we make sure that students were engaged in the process?
 - Would the students get to know each other?
 - Could group-games and discussions work online?
 - The practical part should be done in groups, how would that work online?

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Some thoughts

- The traditional classroom was suspended both as a place and as a community:
 - *Teaching was moved into the homes – with a glimpse into people's personal lives*
 - *Groups became smaller and each individual became more significant*
 - *Instead of being localized in a predefined location the classroom transformed into a universal place of educational encounters.*
 - *Some students even participated while taking a walk!*

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Example of a project

- Students were divided into 8 groups
- Online group-games to "shake them" together.
- Each group had one week to make a 20 minute art-based teaching material for teens using digital media.
- After working on the teaching material for a week, they had to teach it – online.
- 2 by 2 teams worked together.
- The teams took turns being "teenagers".

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Project A: description and comment

Create a collage of the whole group by taking close-ups of parts of everyone's faces and putting them together into one common face.

Students said: The project went well, the submission was fun and it was interesting to see close-ups of ourselves 😊 The result was a magnificent work of art that will end up on the wall for all of us



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Project B: description and comment

Each student should find one garment and redefine it in three ways. Students can play with possibilities with the aim of seeing different uses for how garments can be recycled and updated.

Students said:
It was fun to take part in this project and I just found it fun to have a little time pressure, to just let my imagination run wild



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Some further thoughts

- The challenges of online teaching introduced new perspectives on our traditional practice:
 - We discovered that we could bring the "lessons learned" from the online courses into our traditional practice.
 - We had to think differently about preparation
 - We had to focus more on clarity and arrangement of the lesson plans
 - **Complacency** is to be avoided by all means!

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Some questions to consider

- At the heart of teaching and learning is communication; what happens when physical presence is not possible?
 - How do we perceive others?
 - How do others perceive us?
- Can physical and personal distance intensify minor differences?
 - The risk of objectifying or reducing "the other"?
 - Many participants commented on the importance of having met each other in a real classroom during the first weeks.

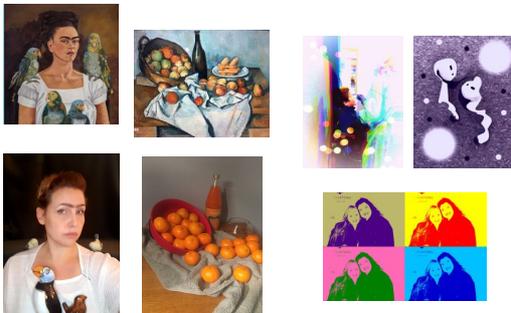
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Comments

- "The teaching on Teams exceeded my brightest hopes and I actually found it quite amazing how much focus was achieved in distance learning and the connection between students"
- "Distance learning, however, set some limits that cannot be completely ignored in terms of communication and intimacy"
- "It is much better to listen to the lectures at home than to sit for 3 hours in an uncomfortable chair in the classroom"
- "Great to have the 1st month in on-site study so everyone gets to know each other and then proceed with distance learning"

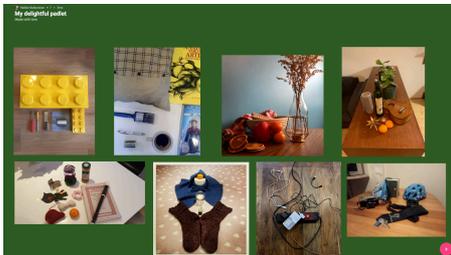
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Some projects from the course



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Some more projects from the course



A mood moodboard based on 8 things that reflected my feeling.