

Editorial

EDITORIAL: Humanizing Learning

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Abstract

This volume contains three articles that address the idea of humanizing online learning. learning technologies as platforms. The first by Olivia Stewart investigates work done to increase engagement and participation in an asynchronous course. The second is an implementation paper by Kam Moi Lee and their colleagues that investigated the role that online personas and journey mapping through the lens of equitable design practice. The third is a review of higher education mathematics homework and course platforms. Finally, April Burton contributed a book review of Caitlin Tucker's recent book on Blended Learning.

Keywords: educational technologies; higher education; learning technologies; educational platforms; online learning; asynchronous course design; blended learning; Issues and Trends in Learning

I have recently been fortunate enough to be invited to write a chapter for an upcoming book focused on humanizing online learning. As I was thinking through what I wanted to share in this chapter, I found myself focusing on the word *human*. I found this surprising because many of us focus on the technologies involved in learning as though being human was a given, as in the human part of the equation was static and assumed, and it was the technology part that was fluid and to be discovered.

In this issue, we have collected a set of articles that focus on the human apart from and in concert with learning technologies. In a research paper, Olivia Stewart shares her work to humanize an asynchronous online course for both students and their instructor. Kam Moi Lee and her colleagues report on their use of personas and journey mapping through the lens of equitable design during an LMS migration. Patricia Anderson reviews a higher education mathematics course and homework platforms. Finally, April Burton contributed a book review of Caitlin Tucker's recent book on Blended Learning.

This issue of ITLT marks my second year as Editor (*tempus fugit*). I continue to be deeply appreciative to the current staff, Pamela Amendola, Gabriella DePinho, the network of reviews who contribute so much to this journal, and to the authors who have submitted their work.

Excelsior!