Demystifying Learner Success: Before, During, and After a Massive Open Online Course

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(Chair: Dr Xiao Hu)

Abstract:
Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) have shown potential for promoting learning at scale. A plethora of studies have tapped into in-course learner behaviors to predict learner success. Yet few studies have looked to the relation between performance and engagement during the course and career development after the course. As such, the present study collected and analyzed both in-course data reflecting learner achievement and engagement in a postgraduate-level MOOC, as well as post-course career development. The goal of this research is to examine how career advancers differ from the rest of learners in terms of their performance and engagement within the course. Results showed that career advancers earned better scores and were more likely to complete the course. Career advancers also engaged more frequently with all key course components such as course pages, lecture videos, assignment submissions, and discussion forums. However, while they read the forums, they were not significantly more likely to post, comment, or vote.
Going forward, by understanding the role that MOOCs play in career development, and understanding which student behaviors are associated with positive developments, we can work to make MOOCs more effective at promoting learner success, and help MOOCs reach the high potential attributed to them at their very beginning.

About the speaker:
Elle Yuan Wang is a Learning Analytics Researcher in Teachers College at Columbia University. She received her Ph.D in Cognitive Studies in Education at the Teachers College, Columbia University in May 2017. She obtained her M.A. in Communication, Technology and Education from Teachers College. She has published quite a number of papers in prestigious international conferences and journals on Learning Analytics (LAK) and Educational Data Mining (EDM). She has also taught a popular Chinese Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) herself and assisted in the very well-known MOOCs titled “Big Data and Education” and “Data Analytics and Learning”

~ All are welcome ~
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