



Pecha Kucha: The Effect of Community-Based Learning on MOOCS

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Collaboration in Learning



MOOCs

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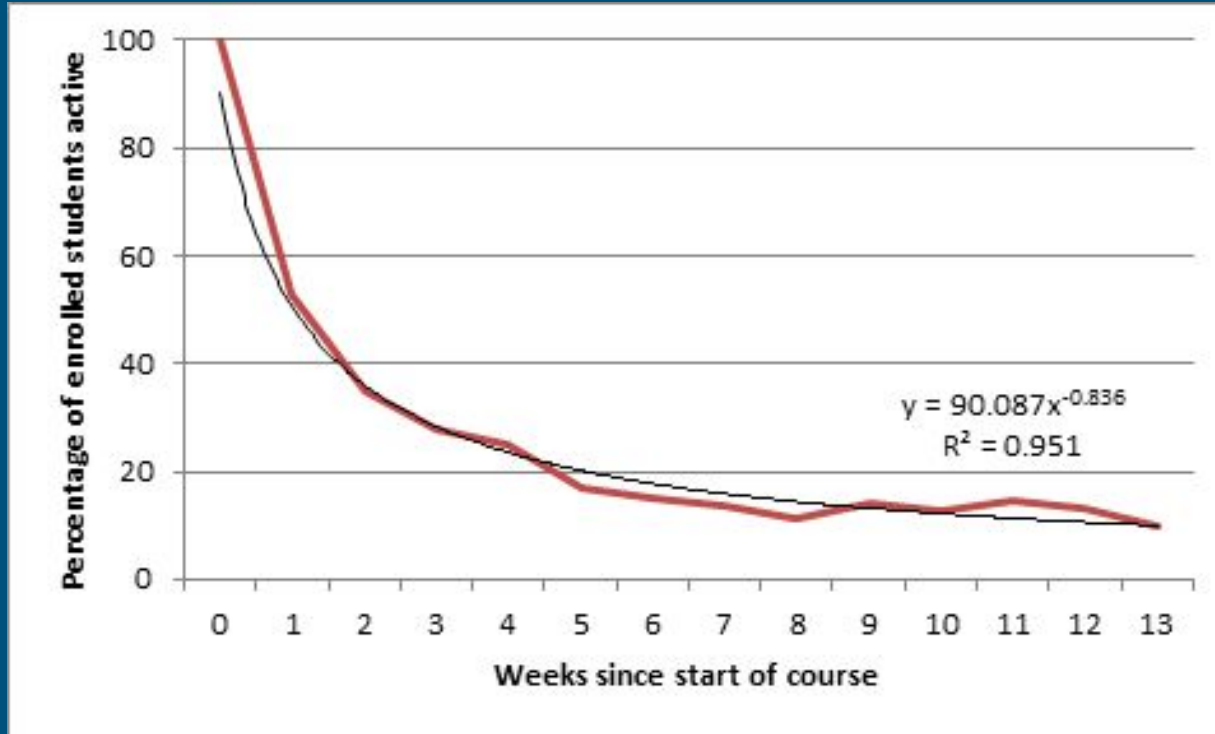
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MELISSA MISUNDERSTANDS MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES

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Research on drop off of learner engagement in MOOCs over time



Community-Based Learning



Community amongst EdX



Original AB Testing

AB TESTING

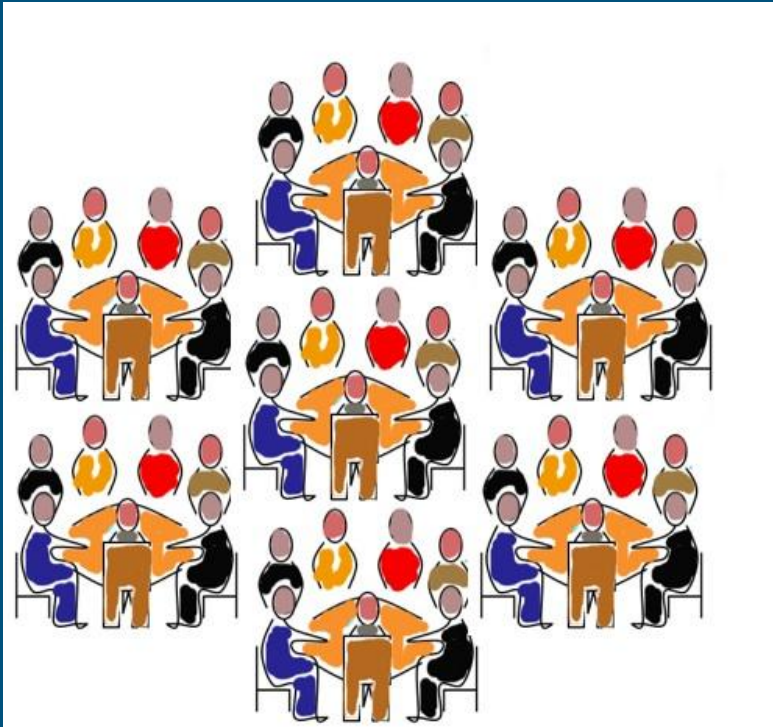
Group A

Placed into cohorts of 3-5 where they are asked to interact and respond to discussion posts.

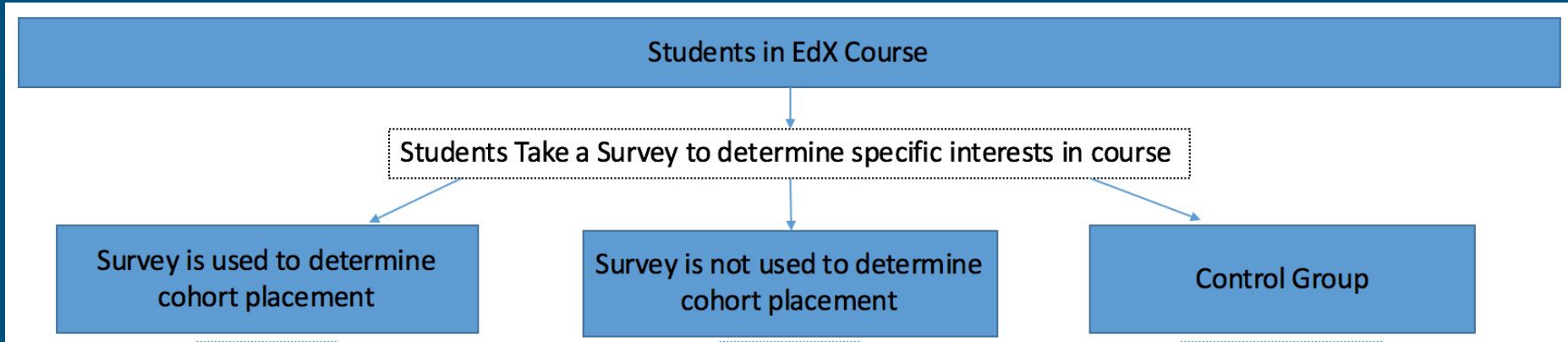
Group B

Rest of the class will be placed into the large group to interact and respond to discussion posts.

Variables of Size and Interest



Addition of Survey into Cohort Design



Students in EdX Course

Students Take a Survey to determine specific interests in course

Survey is used to determine cohort placement

Survey is not used to determine cohort placement

Control Group

Version A

Version B

Control Group

3 of Cohort Size
1a: 5 students

3 of Cohort Size
2a: 10 students

3 of Cohort Size
1b: 5 students

3 of Cohort Size
2b: 10 students

3 of Cohort Size
3a: 20 students

3 of Cohort Size
4a: 40 students

3 of Cohort Size
3b: 20 students

3 of Cohort Size
4b: 40 students

3 of Cohort Size
5a: 80 students

3 of Cohort Size
6a: 160
students

3 of Cohort Size
5b: 80 students

3 of Cohort Size
6b: 160
students

Students in Control Group
are left together in large
group

Data is collected from all Students and Cohorts to determine student performance

Constraints in EdX



Creating Cohorts using Manual Assignment

12.1.2.3. Implementing a Manual Assignment Strategy

To implement a manual assignment strategy of learners to cohorts, you [enable the cohort feature](#) for your course, and [create cohorts](#) that have the **Manual assignment method**. Then, you manually assign enrolled learners to the appropriate cohorts.

Note

It is not a requirement that learners have enrolled in your course or registered on [edx.org](#) for you to add them to a cohort. For learners who have not yet created an [edx.org](#) account, you must provide a valid email address. For learners who have an [edx.org](#) account but have not yet enrolled in your course, you can provide either a valid email address or a recognized [edx.org](#) username.

Manual assignments should be as complete as possible before your course starts. If learners enroll after your course starts, you should assign new learners to cohorts as soon as possible. If you need to make changes to the way you have configured cohorts while your course is running, see [Altering Cohort Configuration in a Running Course](#).

Students in EdX Course

Students placed into cohort size

Cohort Size is Small

Cohort Size is Medium

Control Group

Version A

Version B

Control Group

1/3 of the class is placed
into cohorts that are 5
students

1/3 of the class is placed
into cohorts that are 40
students

Students in Control
Group are left together
in large group

Students will take two surveys, one in the middle of the course and one at the completion of the course to collect data on interests, group dynamics and to offer feedback

Data is studied and reviewed from all Students and Cohorts to determine student performance

Instructor Dashboard

[VIEW COURSE IN STUDIO](#)

[Course Info](#) [Membership](#) [Cohorts](#) [Discussions](#) [Student Admin](#) [Data Download](#) [Analytics](#) [Open Responses](#)

Cohorts

Select a cohort

- ✓ Cohort Size is Large (Rest of class that has not been divided into Small or Medium Cohorts) (0)
- Cohort Size is Medium (40 Students) (0)
- Cohort Size is Small (5 Students) (0)

[+ Add Cohort](#)

Cohort Size is Large (Rest of class that has not been divided into Small or Medium Cohorts) (contains 0 student)

Learners are added to this cohort only when you provide their email addresses or usernames on this page. [What does this mean?](#)

Discussions

Specify whether discussion topics are divided

Not divided

Discussions are unified; all learners interact with posts from other learners, regardless of the group they are in.

Cohorts

Use cohorts as the basis for dividing discussions. All learners, regardless of cohort, see the same discussion topics, but within divided topics, only members of the same cohort see and respond to each others' posts.

Course-Wide Discussion Topics

Select the course-wide discussion topics that you want to divide.

- Course Staff Announcements
- Technical Questions - [Divided](#)
- Introduce Yourself - [Divided](#)

Save

Content-Specific Discussion Topics

Specify whether content-specific discussion topics are divided.

- Always divide content-specific discussion topics
- Divide the selected content-specific discussion topics

Feedback



Who are my learners?

👤 Enrollment

How many learners are in my course?

👤 ▶ Activity

How old are my learners?

👤 ▶ Demographics ▶ Age

What level of education do my learners have?

👤 ▶ Demographics ▶ Education

What is the learner gender breakdown?

👤 ▶ Demographics ▶ Gender

Where are my learners?

👤 ▶ Geography

Optimizing Cohorts



The Future and Direction of MOOCs



My Hope





Thank you for
listening!

Any Questions?

