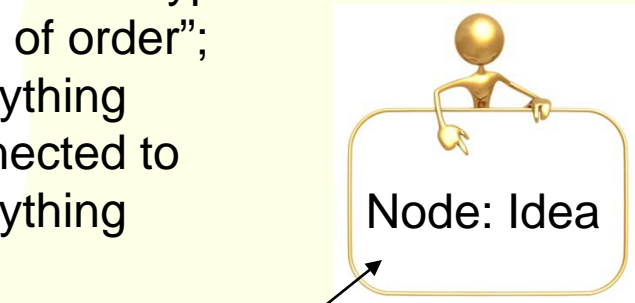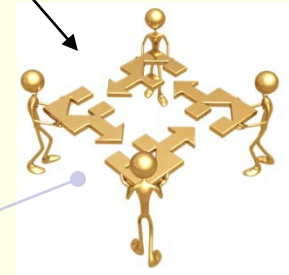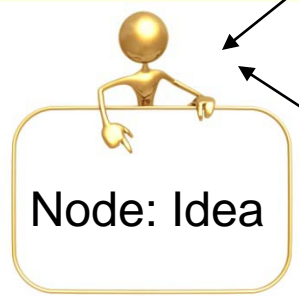# Understanding Connectivism

Theory map by Janine Lim

janine@janinelim.com
May 2009

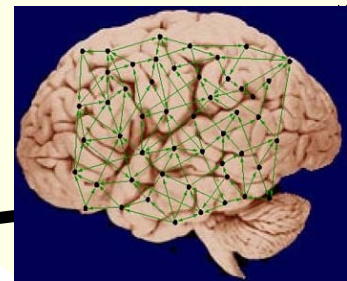Chaos: a "cryptic form of order"; everything connected to everything

Node: Idea

Node: Community

Learning may reside in non-human appliances

Node: Idea
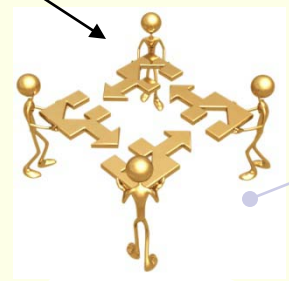
Weak ties: short connections between information

Node: Field

Node: Field

Node: You with knowledge distributed across your brain
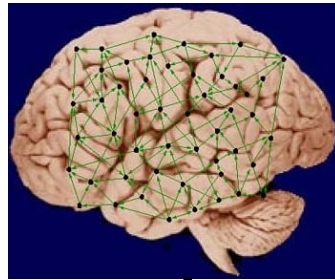
Nebulous environments of shifting core elements

Siemens (2005)

Learning….

…and knowledge rests in a diversity of opinions.

… is a process of connecting specialized nodes or information sources.

Decision-making is a learning process. Choosing what to learn, the meaning of incoming information…

Core skills: ability to see connections, nurture and maintain connections for continual learning.

… may reside in non-human appliances

Goal: current, accurate, up-to-date knowledge.

Siemens (2005)

Distributed or Connective Knowledge

Openness

A mechanism allows all perspectives to enter into the system, be heard and interacted with by others

Diversity

Widest possible spectrum of view points

Interactivity

Knowledge produced is the product of the interaction, not just an aggregation

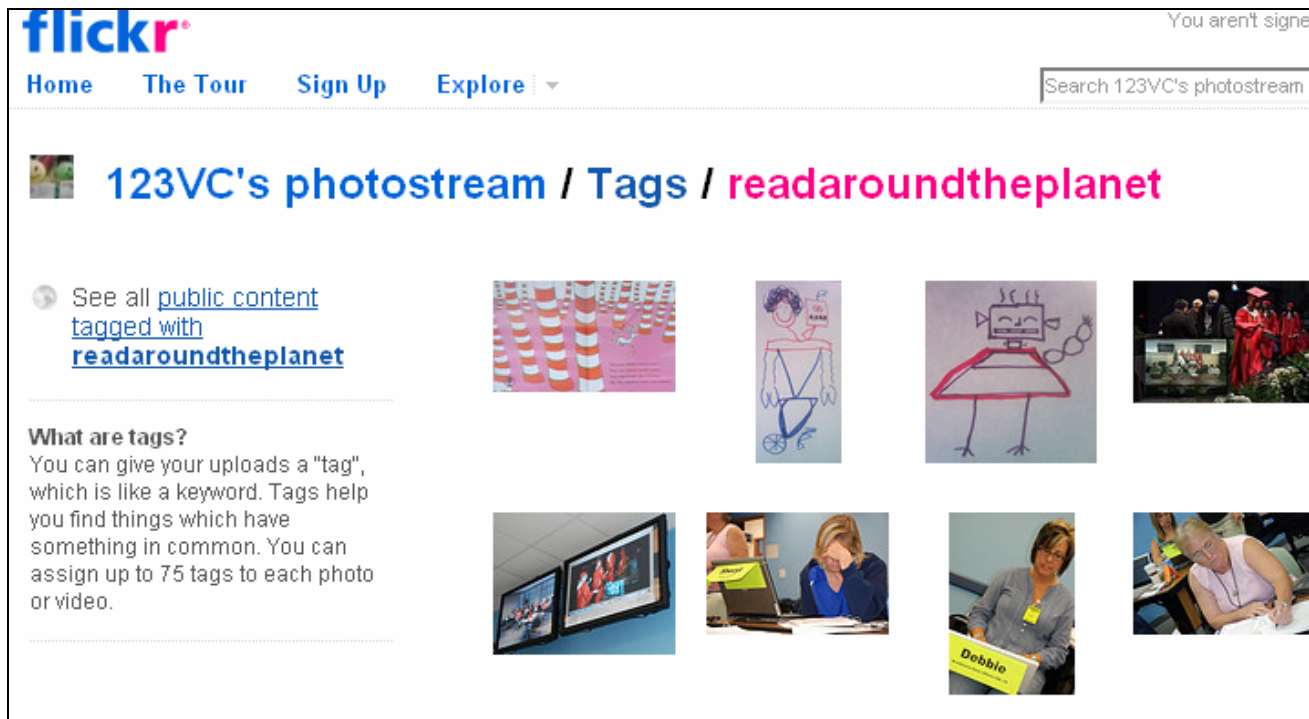## Autonomy

Individual knowers contributing on their own accord according to their own knowledge, values, decisions

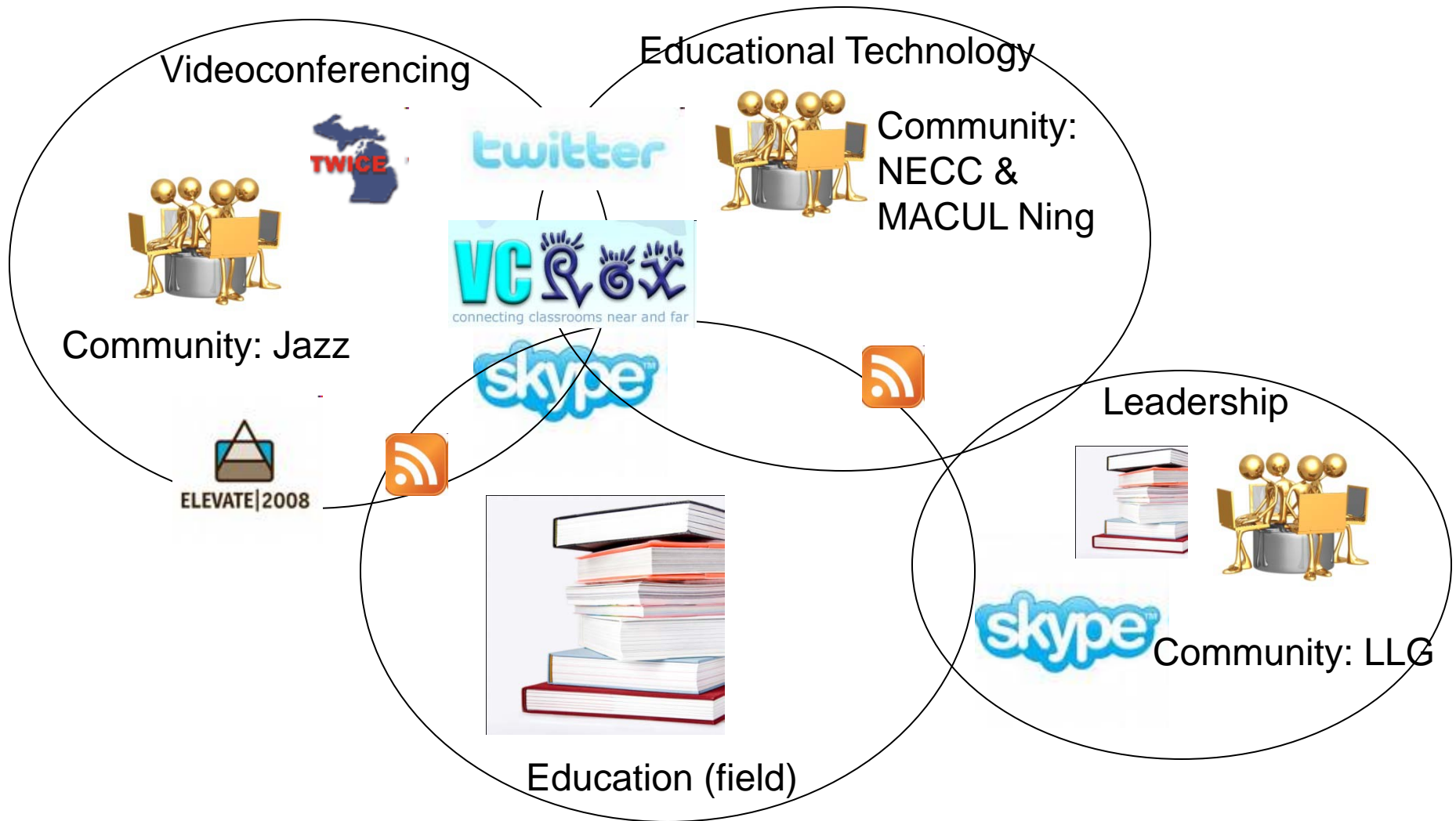Downes (2005)

Example of Learning in Non-Human Appliances

"Rapid knowledge growth requires off-loading the internal act of cognition, sense and meaning making, and filtering to a network consisting of human and technology nodes."

"The popular tag feature of many sites (del.icio.us, digg.com, flickr), enable pattern recognition that captures the activities of thousands or millions of individuals. As knowledge complexifies, patterns, not individual elements, become of greatest importance in gaining understanding."

Siemens (2006)

My Connectivist Learning Network

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- Tracey, R. (2009, March 17). *Instructivism, constructivism or connectivism?* Retrieved from http://ryan2point0.wordpress.com/

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