Pimp My Ithaca!
A workshop to rage against the machine.

Context

The rapid rise of AI has sparked debate amongst both educators and learners alike. Higher education institutions are only beginning to get to grips with how this relatively new phenomenon can be managed and put to best possible use across the learning environment – in classrooms, in exams, generating materials, student submissions, testing, etc. The role of AI in education is yet to be clearly defined. What *is* clear is that it will be a permanent element of learning and that its power and reach are still in their infancy. We do not know where AI and learning are going, only that it will be a shared journey.

Aims

The principle aims of the workshop are:

- to show that, with the rise of generative AI, the learning process (or journey) rather than the outcomes (or destination) may become more important.
- to investigate whether learning by doing is more effective that learning by copying
- to explore whether humans can still communicate better than AI

Methodology

Participants are split into three groups:

- Group A(I),
- Group B, the analogue team,
- Group C, the evaluators.

Groups A and B are set the same task: to design a learning space.

Group A are instructed to use AI, in whichever way they see fit to design the space; group B are instructed to use their existing, shared knowledge. They are not allowed to use AI; group C are asked to come up with a set of criteria to evaluate the learning space, which they will later use to assess the two groups' proposals. Groups A and B present their designs and Group C evaluates them, according to their criteria; group C also interrogate the two other groups on their approach and methods – how did they design their space? The workshop is brought together by the final stage in which all participants are invited to critically reflect on the task, how they approached it and carried it out.

Expectations and Outcomes

It is hoped that by offering participants the chance to compare knowledge sharing vs AI for creative practice and learning, they will increase their awareness of the uniqueness of their own 'voice' and recognize the beauty in human variation and imperfection, especially when it comes to communication. In addition, the workshop aims to examine whether human capacity for innovation matches or exceeds that of AI, in a specific context.

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