Wikipedia Values and Peeragogical Methods in Knowledge Production

Peeragogy is a framework of techniques for peer learning and peer knowledge production. As pedagogy theoretically articulates the transmission of knowledge from teachers to students, peeragogy describes the way peers produce and utilize knowledge together. With OER, wikis, the internet, Free Software and mobile networks, groups of people can learn, connect and create knowledge together inside and outside of formal institutions in ways never before possible. These tools can facilitate connected learning, and collaborative engagement but they only work well when combined with practices that work well for the people involved.

Peeragogy makes use of a novel re-interpretation of four of Wikipedia's five pillars: neutral POV; free content; respect and civility; and no firm rules – extending them beyond encyclopedia style creation. Although not described exactly as such at the time, the "Good Faith Collaboration" involved in the creation of Wikipedia was highly peeragogical in nature. The learning mind-set and new strategies for "Good Faith Collaboration" we are uncovering in the Peeragogy project can be applied in classrooms, hackerspaces, business meetings, Wikimedia projects and interconnected collaborations across an entire society.

In our session we will examine the values of Wikipedia from a historical, peeragogical lens, exploring how they support effective Wikipedia editing. We draw on our experience as practitioners of "Mode 2" knowledge production (i.e. in loosely knit multidisciplinary teams working together for short periods of time on specific real-world problems). Our presentation will build on analyses we have developed and shared with the Peer-2-Peer University (P2PU) and the Free Libre Open Knowledge Society (FLOK). We hope this contribution can extend Wikipedia's values -- and peeragogy -- into new realms of knowledge production and buen vivir in the Americas and beyond.

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