EdTech and the English Classroom

Panel Chair: Brenna Clarke Gray Panelists: Graham Jensen, Mark McCutcheon, and Ann Gagné



I am an uninvited visitor on Tk'emlups te Secwepemc territory within the unceded traditional lands of Secwepemcúl'ecw (Secwepemc Nation), where learning has taken place since time immemorial.

Photo of the sky in Knutsford by James Wheeler, via Unsplash.



The Genesis of This Panel

Me: *recently transitioned from English to EdTech, August 2019* I hope I can find reasons to still do ACCUTE!

Also me: I wonder if anything could happen to make literature scholars care about EdTech.

The original panel pitch:

In this roundtable session, participants are invited to share a technological innovation they have developed or adapted for their classroom context, and then to join in a larger discussion about how English studies and digital tools intersect. Questions to consider might include:

- What assumptions do we make about English students and classrooms?
- What institutional supports are needed to allow the robust adoption of digital tools?
- Where are analogue tools still best practice, and why?
- How has embracing digital tools in the classroom changed your scholarship?
- What can you do in the classroom now that you couldn't have imagined ten years ago?

The panel I proposed then, though, was not related to the urgent moment I feel now.



The Rise of Surveillance

Emergent despite harm to students; threats to free speech and academic freedom; inequities based on race, ability, and gender identity; and lack of meaningful evidence that it works to improve anything other than compliance.

EdTech offers promise, but.

As our panelists discuss cool tools and meaningful pedagogical interventions today, I encourage us to reflect critically on all the tools and platforms we're invited to use and our understanding of how they work.

EdTech without ethics is just venture capitalism.