

PLE Narrative W.11- Roya Amirsoleymani

A visual mapping of my Personal Learning Environment (PLE). Created on Adobe Illustrator. PDF version: [Roya's PLE](#)

My PLE consists of five core communities through which I derive knowledge, support, and inspiration on a regular basis. These clusters of information, knowledge-sharing, and creative collaboration include:

a) traditional print-format and media materials (books, journals, magazines, film/video), of which I am still a big fan! These are primarily experienced privately, through reading or viewing in a library, in my home, or with a few good friends.

b) real, or place-based, environments that I experience on a physical, visceral level, and which are often public and more social, including cafes/bars, bookstores, libraries, and movie theaters. These unique “third spaces” allow for learning experiences outside my primary home/school/work environments. These are also the “hubs” of my social interactions as well as closest friendships, which in the end probably teach me more than anything else in my life.

c) the University of Oregon and the various departments, programs, and activities with which I'm involved. These programs are often closely connected or even directly collaborative and represent many sub-communities embedded in larger ones. I feel fortunate to have found opportunities for formal, informal, and experimental learning and creativity in this space. In my redesign, I would add the Oregon Folklife Network, of which I am an Advisory Board member.

d) online platforms and tools for experiencing art/media/politics of particular interest to me, including blogs, online journals, websites, collectives, political initiatives, and electronic/experimental media.

e) in the center are my virtual or digital learning platforms, which are a mix of public and private depending on my activity. Those I use fairly regularly include Google/Gmail, Diigo, Facebook, Twitter, and WordPress. If I were to re-design my PLE map, I would add Vimeo and possibly YouTube to this cluster. One thing I noticed, and felt slightly uncomfortable with, was identifying my learning environment and the everyday experiences I value with corporate logos! I have always resisted this sort of orientation to the world and find it frustrating to know that so much of what I read, write, and share online is corporatized, and that there is a (often corrupt) politics to that.

In turn, it forces me to think about how the boundaries between public and private have been blurred like never before in this new digital realm, that our concept of ownership/copyright/selfhood has been completely upturned, and that—on many levels—we are incredibly privileged to have access to these tools and resources that we encounter everyday to connect with the world, which so many people do not have in their lives. Just as nothing is all good, there is a “violence” and a global economic/political/social/environmental reality to technology that cannot be ignored. I am flooded with thoughts of technology's impact on the earth and society when I see this PLE. It's good to be reminded of the complex contexts in which my learning takes place.