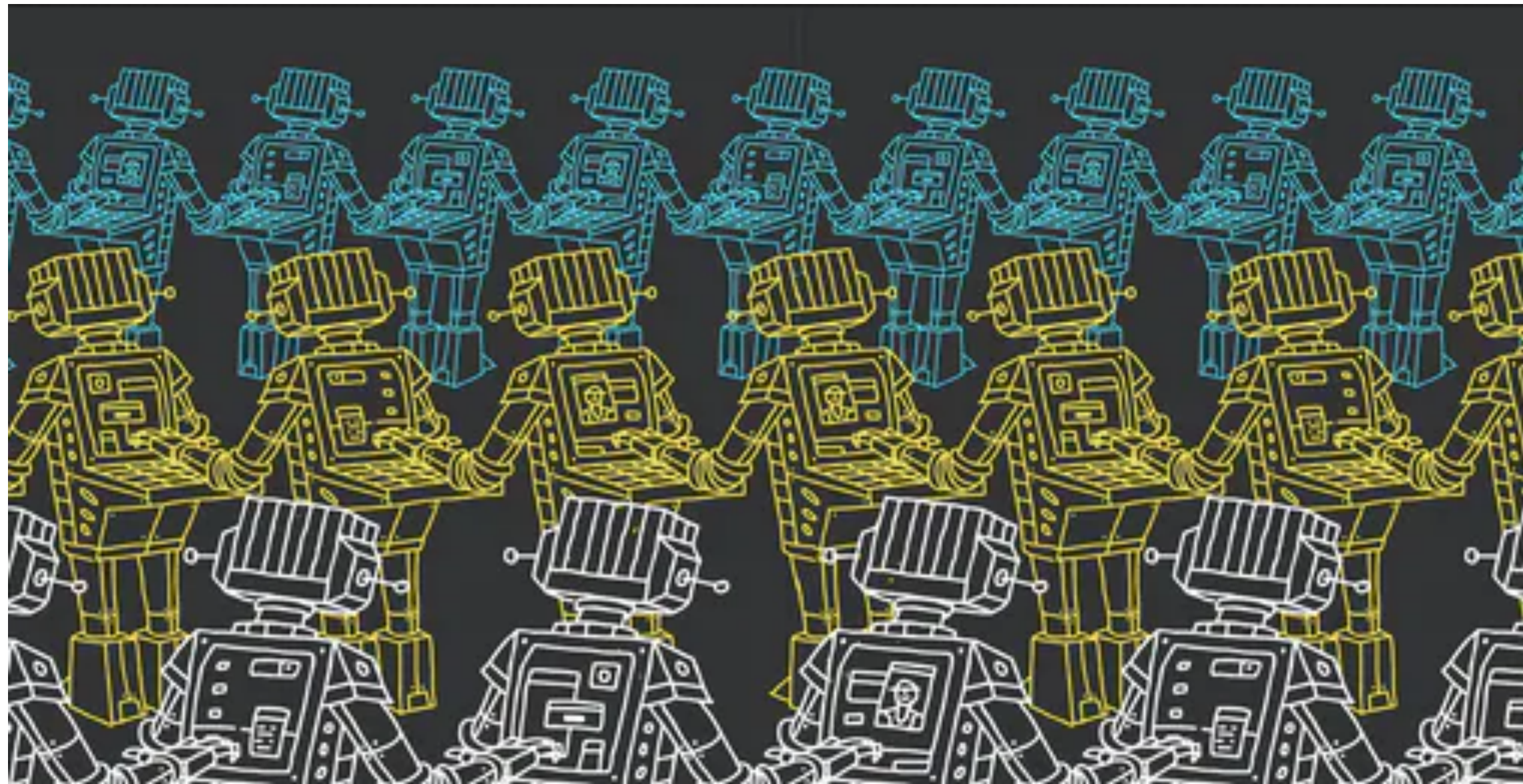


A background graphic consisting of a network of interconnected nodes and lines. The nodes are represented by dark grey circles with a white center, and the lines are thin, light grey. The network is dense and spans the entire frame, creating a complex web-like structure.

# Lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic: How to Improve How We Teach and learn Online

Stephen Downes

March 1, 2021



*As faculty and instructors...*

- What are we learning?
- What can we build on?
- What changes can we make?







*In this interactive webinar...*

- 10 lessons
- Three challenges
- Three improvements



COMPETENCE

KNOWLEDGE

SKILL

ABILITY

LEARNING

## *Key Takeaways*

- Nature of teaching and learning
- Authentic assessment
- Diverse needs of learners





# Lessons







HABITS

CHANGES



*Any change will be hard at first.*

- We can't directly compare the new thing with the old thing.
- Give ourselves some time





*Learning is social.*

- We knew that already
- Some outcomes are social
- We learn as a community
- We exchange ideas, conduct trade, and develop networks



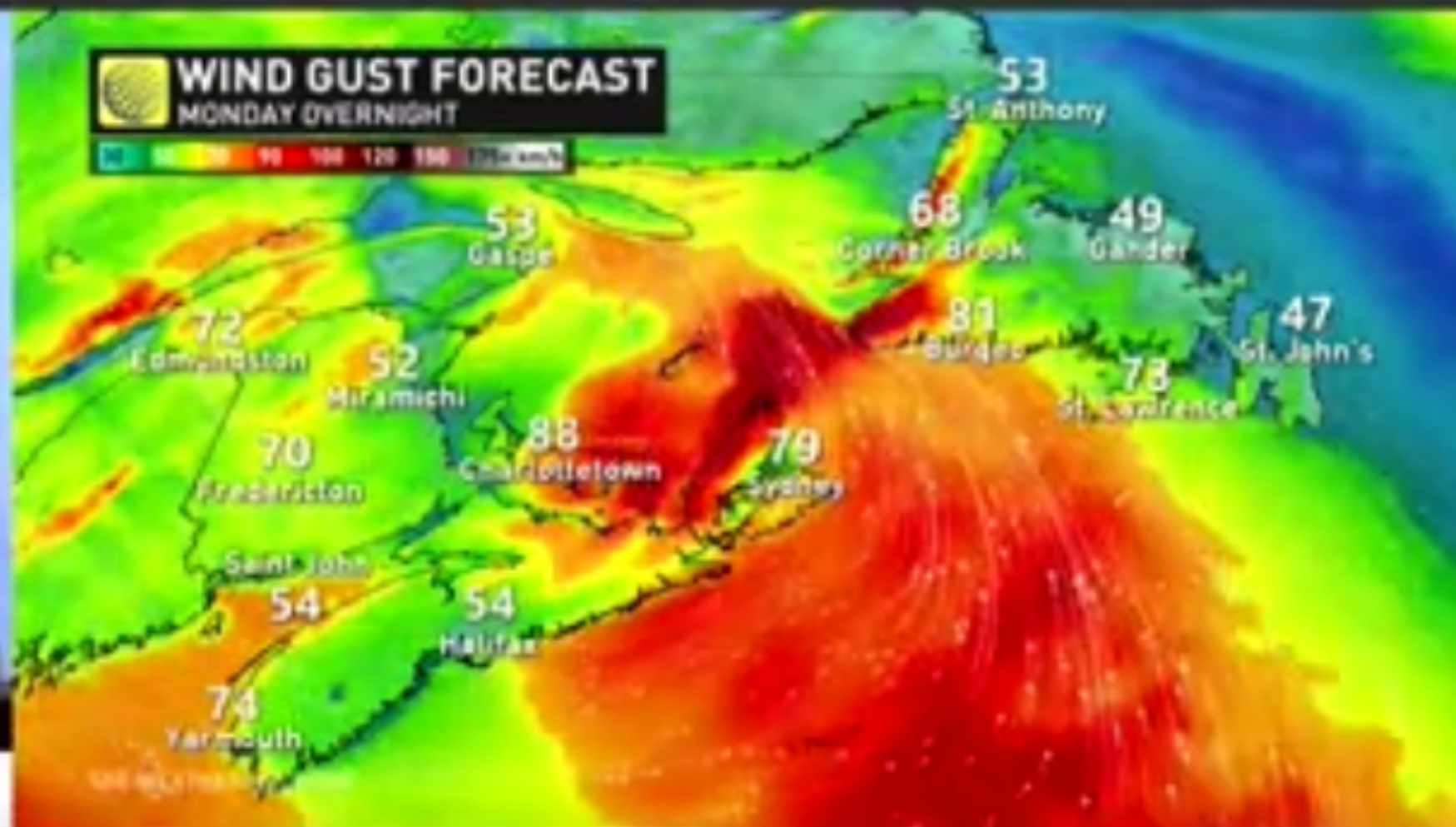


*Teaching is not a solitary profession.*

- Teachers need buildings, etc.
- Now they need a support team.
- Like when we watch the news



**JESSIE UPPAL**  
METEOROLOGIST





*We need live events.*

- Not everything
- But live events draw us in
- Planning and anticipation
- Interaction, presence





*Open media plays a key role.*

- We can't learn without it
- We need an alphabet
- We need words
- We need data





*Quality matters,*

- It's not guaranteed
- We have to make our own judgements
- We have to be critically-minded







*Teaching is more than broadcasting.*

- 8-hour videos bad
- Get us away from the keyboard
- Still true when we return to the classroom



*Reading the room is harder.*

- We can scan a classroom
- Online, it's a lot more difficult
- This needs to become a deliberate practice





*We need structure, order and routines.*

- A respite from uncertainty
- Balance our work with our play, rest and self-care.
- That's what school often provides





*It's not just school subjects*

- Not just schools and universities
- Beyond traditional academics
- Support in-home workers, self-employed, new careers



# Challenges







*Motivation matters.*

- Educators have always known
- Online we haven't the same tools
- We can't force them
- Need people interested and engaged



LOOK

*People have diverse needs.*

- Designed for the mainstream
- Built-in, systemic discrimination
- Everyone has special needs





*Inequities harm learning.*

- School mitigated some of the worst inequities
- This disappeared online
- People in need just vanished.
- We need the will to solve it

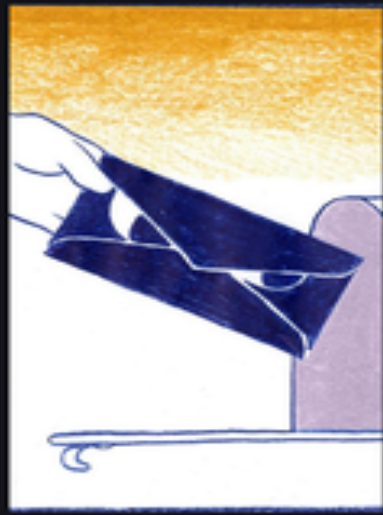
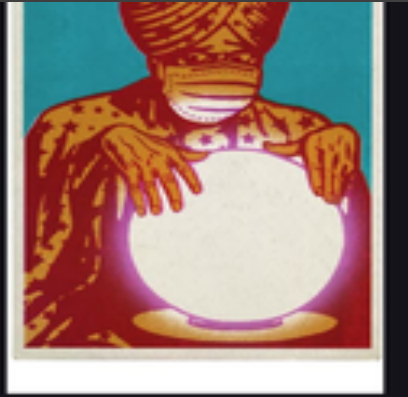
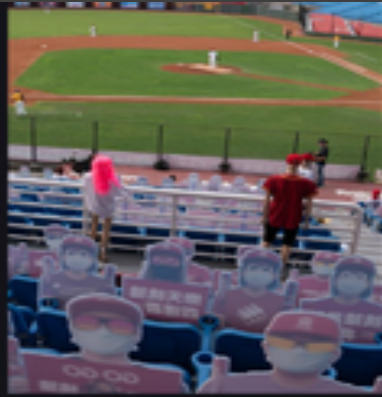
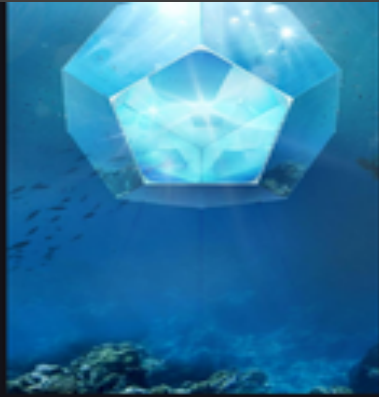




# Ways to Improve







*We need to learn how to learn.*

- Can't learn on their own.
- If nobody there to teach them, they wouldn't try to learn
- Both teachers and students



Webinar - De snelle opkomst van de hybrid virtual classroom





*Employ a range of strategies.*

- Develop 'hybrid learning'
- Not doing both at once
- Meet the different needs of people at different times and in different ways







*Assessment needs to be flexible.*

- Traditional testing has become dysfunctional
- Depending on surveillance
- Instead, show work directly to employers







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