

Self-Regulated Learning in Massive Online Open Courses Interview Schedule (SRL-MOOC IS)

Note to interviewer

- 1) Make sure you examine the questionnaire responses of the person you are interviewing prior to the interview. This will help you to better tailor the questions to the participant's circumstances as well as contextualise their responses. In particular, pay attention to the responses to the "goal setting" questions (see Questionnaire, Q15-17): did the participant indicate that they never set goals for example? It is unlikely that adults engage in learning, especially in a course like MOOC, aimlessly, so during the interview probe why they engage in learning, whether or not they define such reason as a 'goal'.
- 2) For each interview, please make sure you record the following details:
 - Interviewee's name
 - Phone Number/Skype username
 - Interview Date
 - Interview Start Time
 - Interview End Time
 - Interviewer's name
 - Audiofile name and location
- 3) For probing into each question, follow the general procedure below:
 - Ask the question and wait for a response. Then, depending on the question, ask: *Is there anything else you do/strategy you use/tool you use?*
 - If the interviewee says "Yes" but doesn't give answer, ask: *What do you do/what strategy you use/what too you use?*
 - If the interviewee offers a general or ambiguous answer, ask: *Could you be more specific?*

For specific aspects/questions to probe, please refer to the interview protocol below.

Interview Protocol

- Introduce myself and thank him/her for his/her time. Indicate that we expect to spend around 1 hour.
- Proceed by saying:
We are studying how adult learners self-regulate their learning. For this interview, we have prepared a series of questions concerning the way you learn in general and within the Change 11 MOOC in particular. Some of the questions build on the online survey which you completed.
- Proceed by saying:
The interview will be recorded and transcribed verbatim. Would this be OK with you?
- Wait for their answer then say...
The information you provide will be anonymised before anything is used in any publication. The interview recording and transcript will not be disclosed to anyone beyond the researchers working on this study.

1.1. Biographic/demographic information

1.1.1. *First, we'd like to understand how you came to this MOOC. Could you very briefly describe the circumstances that led you to decide to participate in this course?*

This question can be viewed as an ice-breaker, providing general background information which you are likely to refer to in the remainder of the interview. Please prompt and capture the following:

- his/her job role
- how does the MOOC relates to/fit in with his/her job

1.1.2. *Can you summarise in one sentence the ultimate aim you are pursuing in this MOOC?*
[Ultimate goal]

1.1.3. *How near are you to achieving this aim? What would you say is the probability of you achieving this aim?* [Ultimate goal]

1.1.4. *What do you see as the biggest obstacle to realising this ultimate goal?* [Ultimate goal]

1.1.5. *What does 'success' or 'accomplishment' in the MOOC mean for you personally?* (probe: how he/she defines success in relation to the MOOC? What indicators would lead him/her to conclude that he/she has been successful in the MOOC?)

1.1.6. *What do you think is the potential, long-term benefit for you in participating in this MOOC?*

1.2. Planning

1.2.1. *Did you set goals for yourself in this MOOC? Can you tell me what your goals are?* (probe: short-term goals? Long-term goals?) (probe: if the respondent says he/she didn't plan any goals, ask why and encourage them to elaborate)

1.2.2. *Tell me about what you were thinking when you were deciding your goals?* (probe: what were his/her expectations? Concerns?)

1.2.3. *Did you discuss your goals with anyone else? If so, what other people you discussed your goals with?* (get them to list everyone; probe: peers, colleagues, MOOC organisers, friend, partner)

1.2.4. *Did you make these goals public (eg through a blog post or tweet). Can you send us an example?* (eg of blogpost in which they articulated the goals)

1.2.5. *Did you set specific deadlines and criteria of success for each goal?*

1.2.6. *Did your goals change during the MOOC?*

1.2.7. *Were these goals/concerns similar or different from other MOOCs you participated in?* (make sure that he/she has participated in more than 1 MOOC – see questionnaire, q 42-43; if she/he hasn't then ask about similarity/difference with other learning activities/courses they have participated in)

1.2.8. *Did/do you use any specific tools for planning your goals?* (probe: digital tools, paper-based tools – eg plan, diary, any other. Make sure that their response relates to the planning stage in particular, though this may sometimes be difficult to differentiate)

1.3. Performance

1.3.1. *Can you tell me very briefly, what have you enjoyed most in this MOOC?* (probe: What specific activities within the MOOC you enjoy the most? Why do you find these things satisfying?) [Motivation]

1.3.2. *Can you tell me very briefly, what the sources of frustration in the MOOC are?* (probe: What specific activities within the MOOC frustrate you? Why do you find these things frustrating?)
[Motivation]

1.3.3. *How well do you think you have been doing so far in this MOOC? Elaborate* (probe them in depth here about any problems they have come across, how well they are progressing in relation to their goals, if not so well what are the problems and what are their reactions to the problem, how do they plan to deal with issues)

1.3.4. *Tell me about any strategies you use to organise the material in this MOOC and your thoughts/activities.* (Consider drawing on their questionnaire responses (Q9, 10, 13) and probe in depth about how they deal with the distributed nature of the MOOC; information coming from various sources; outlining, summarising etc. If they make notes, outlines, diagrams, etc – do they share these publicly or do they keep these to themselves?)

1.3.5. *What are the most important tools that you use to organise your learning within the MOOC?* (probe: get them to list all the key tools that they are using; it could be the Daily, RSS aggregator, twitter, delicious, concept mapping tools, etc)

1.4. Reflection

1.4.1. *Tell me about any strategies you use to reflect on your learning within this MOOC* (Consider drawing on their questionnaire responses (Q3, 34, 35), ask them to articulate examples)

1.4.2. *Do you discuss with any other MOOC participants how well you are doing in this MOOC? If so who and how?* (probe: get them to specify who they speak to and in what ways, are these conversations formal/informal; are these conversation public or closed. Did they discuss with any participants whom they didn't know before the MOOC? Probe how beneficial they think these new contacts are likely to be for them...)

1.4.3. *Do you discuss with anyone else (not a MOOC participant) how well you are doing in this MOOC? If so who and how?* (probe: get them to specify who they speak to and in what ways, are these conversations formal/informal; are these conversation public or closed. Probe not only the self-reflection practices, but also if they have made contact with anyone new, and how beneficial they think these contacts are likely to be for them...)

CONCLUDE INTERVIEW

That's great, thanks very much for taking the time to talk with me and for your contribution to our study, it's much appreciated. Goodbye