**Networked Practices: Online Self & Digital Communities of Practice in Higher Education**

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| Online Resource for: Pasquini, L. A., & Eaton, P. W. (2020). Being/Becoming professional online: Wayfinding through networked practices and digital experiences. *New Media & Society*. |

**Interview Protocols**

[Begin recording before beginning preamble]

Thank you for taking some time to meet with me today. I am part of a team who is interviewing higher education professionals to understand more about their individual experiences online, specifically on social networks, digital platforms, and online communities. Our group is interested in learning how you use these digital spaces and places for professional development, learning, and to establish your digital identity. Today we are interested in learning more about your involvement using social media, digital platforms, and how they impact your professional identity and influence your practice in higher ed.

As you saw in the consent form that I emailed you, I will be recording this interview.

Could you confirm for the record that you consent to this interview and it is okay to record this interview?

[If the answer is yes, proceed. If the answer is no, end the interview]

Do you have any questions about the consent form that I emailed you?

[response]

If at any time you want to or need to stop this conversation, just let me know. You don't have to answer any of my questions if you don’t want to. All the information that we discuss today will be used in various publications and/or presentations. But all of your personal information will be removed, so no one will know or associate anything you say today with you.

How does that sound?

**Research Questions: Semi-Structured Interviews**

OPENING:

As I explained, we are interested in the learning more about how social media and digital platforms influence your career and professional development. For example, you might read a blog, participate in an online discussion forum, listen to a podcast, read a listserv, or post a tweet related to the work you do. Specifically, we want to know how your involvement in any digital community or individual online space, impacts your professional learning, development and identity in higher education. Please provide us with specific examples to any question asked to help us understand aspects of your networked self.

***INTERVIEWER REMINDERS:***

Note 1: Give wait time to think before answering and tell them that you are doing that.

Note 2: Listen to their replies and ask probing questions that aren’t listed below but go toward the issues we are trying to explore."

**INTRODUCTION**

Tell me a little about yourself. How long have you been working within the field of higher education? Please share your professional/career background, current role at your institution, and the number of years of your work experience.

**NETWORKED SELF (Individual)**

What social media or digital platforms do you utilize for your professional practice? Name the platform and the length of time you have engaged. Share as many as you want.

FOLLOW-UP: Describe for me your... [Twitter profile, bio, details, etc.]

Describe how you interact with other professionals in higher ed on these social, digital platforms?

FOLLOW-UP: Has this changed over time? Please explain

Has your participation on these digital platforms or social media spaces changed over time? If so, what changed your participation or involvement?

How would you describe your digital identity? Share with us who you are in these online spaces and places.

OR

Select one online profile or platform you utilize the most for professional identity/use. You may wish to bring this up on your own device -- as I would like you to describe what it looks like, e.g. detail more about your avatar/photo, bio, and other related content you share.

When you first decided to utilize social and networked spaces online for professional practice, what or who helped you develop your digital presence?

Share an example of how you signal your professional values online, in relation to your functional area in higher education. Prompt: For example, what do you have in your Twitter or LinkedIn Bio or is your online name or blog connected to your work e.g. Res Life or Career

FOLLOW-UP: Has this changed over time? Please explain.

How do your social identities (race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and/or religion) influence your participation online?

What sort of attributes does a "good digital citizen" look like as a higher ed professional? Describe behaviors, actions, and characteristics of positive professional practice online.

In thinking about professional practice in higher education, could you describe positive attributes of a "digital citizen" or individuals who model/mentor colleagues online?

Share a time you posted, shared, retweeted, etc. something online that had implications for your professional life or offline self.

In your engagement online (posting, reading, or sharing) have you seen or witnessed privilege or oppression? If so, please describe this experience and your specific role. For example, did you read a discussion thread, create the original post, add a comment, or other?

Share an example of a time where you either experienced or witnessed a behavior online where you had no idea how to react.

**NETWORKED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

What personal learning communities, networks, and online groups do you utilize for your professional practice? Name the specific community/group, where they gather online, and the length of time you have engaged. Share as many much detail as you would like.

What is your motivation for participating in these online communities or digital learning spaces?

Has your participation in this online community changed over time? If so, what changed your participation or involvement?

*For the next set of questions, I would like you to think about one particular online community or group you affiliate with connected to your professional practice. Please identify this community and answer the next set of questions based on your experiences with this specific online group.*

Do you utilize this online community for further learning or knowledge sharing? Please explain how. F

OLLOW-UP: Is this part of your professional development plan you create with your supervisor? OR If you are a supervisor, has any of your employees told you about their use of networks for learning or professional development?

What are the benefits of participating in or being a member of an online community?

What are the challenges of participating in or being a member of an online community?

In thinking about access, are there any barriers for entry or participation for this online community?

FOLLOW-UP: Does anyone think this an exclusive group?

This online group, space or hashtag was created for professional practice or a professional learning network, when it is not being used for its original purpose, what do you or others use this DIGITAL SPACE or HASHTAG for? Give examples of other uses from you or others in the groups.

If this online community were to go away, what would fill the void?

If this online platform went away, where would you go to connect or find this community?

**OVERAL SELF & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE REFLECTIONS**

How has your participation in online spaces or online [like the one mentioned earlier] impacted your offline professional behaviors or involvement?

How has your participation in online spaces or online [like the one mentioned earlier] impacted your personal relationships and offline interactions?

**CONCLUSION: WRAP UP**

Before we wrap up this interview, there are just two more questions I to ask you:

1. What advice would you give others who are developing their digital self/identity or for those who want to participate in a professional networked/online community? OR What would you like to know more about as you develop your digital identity, or you are thinking about participating & engaging online?
2. Is there anything else you want to tell us about your networked experience or digital identity that you did not share today?

On behalf of our research team, we thank you for taking the time out of your schedule to talk about your digital identity and networked learning. If you have further questions or comments, please feel free to follow up with either Laura Pasquini or Paul Eaton [Researchers]. We would be happy to take any questions or comments you might reflect upon after this interview is over. Thank you and have a nice day.

**Codebook for Qualitative Analysis**

DOWNLOAD the complete codebook for this qualitative research investigation, which includes categories, codes, & descriptions of codes here:

Pasquini, Laura A. (2020): Networked Practices: Codebook for Qualitative Analysis. *figshare*. *Online resource*. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.11674026.v1>