Conversation Analysis

To investigate the characteristic and qualities of conversations in OpenStudio.

To date analysed 130 conversations in total (3 students).

Adopting Computer-mediated Conversation Analysis Scheme by Herring’s (2007)

Reflection categorisation scheme by Reymann (2001)

Timing
Observed that time on task is key to OS interaction (Lotz, Holden, Jones, 2015)
First conversation unit - comment and reply - needs to be ‘on time’
Following don’t have to be on time for conversation to continue.
Increased untimeliness in higher levels.

Structure
Dyadic as well as large group conversation occur.
Reply of poster to first comment is key to conversation to occur.
Exception of ‘tasked conversations’ (a row of other posters carrying on the conversation).
Exception when there was a row of immediate responses (images was striking)
Posters seem to learn to reply to comments over first weeks of module.

Topic development
Few conversation go off topic.
Some parallel conversations.

Style
Style not set by the poster’s description style.
Great range of styles from formal, objective to subjective, emotional or fun and ironical.
Fun and ironical conversations more often have parallel conversations.
Mixed styles observed in one common and in conversations.
Styles becomes more formal at higher levels

Goal
Most difficult to analyse.
In the beginning, accomplish task or share information.
Having fun/enjoyment is unique to U101 (tone of module).
Showing off skill (especially drawing) is often rewarded with conversation.
Maintaining social relationship comes in later in the module.

Reflection
Reflection is reason why conversation is considered important.
Although conceptualised as individual activity, ‘distributed’ reflection emerges in OS conversation.
Similar to Schoen’s observed design Studio / tuition practice.
Does not need to go linearly from analysis to synthesis to conclusion
Incomplete, weak and strong reflection
No increased reflectiveness within Level or across levels

Constraints
Still 6 more students to analyse
Network analysis (strong and weak ties) difficult.