

FutureLearn Academic Network: Developing the MOOC research agenda

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Moving FLAN forward/next steps

Afternoon group discussion: Share your thoughts and views on:

1. Major and emerging MOOC research themes
2. Key recent papers & MOOC tools
3. FLAN priorities for next 3 years & suggestions for how to move forward & next steps

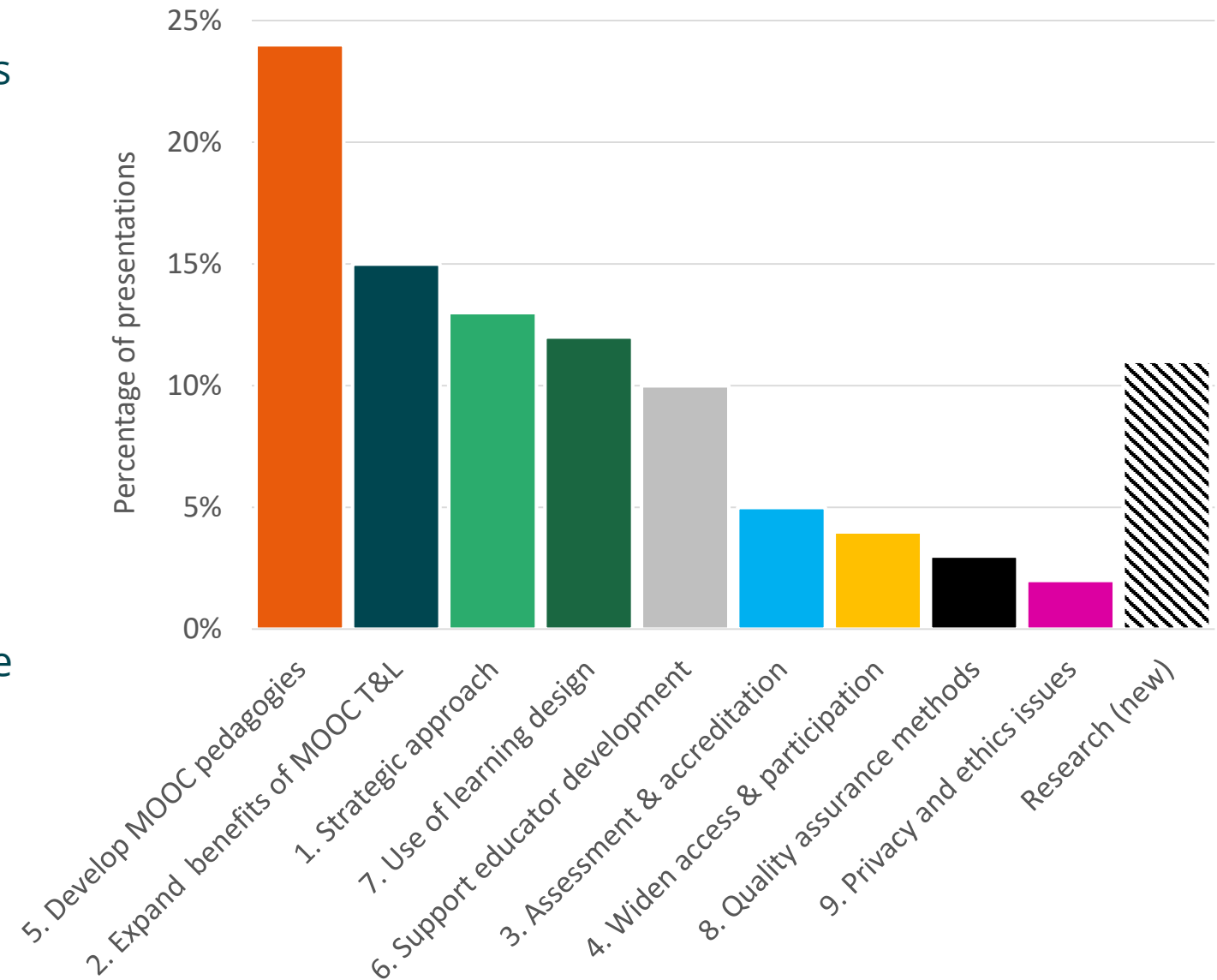
Draft thematic analysis of FLAN talks 2013 -18

To facilitate discussions: 137 FLAN presentation titles and slides (where available) from 2013–18 as listed on the FutureLearn partners site were grouped into 9 priority areas for MOOC research as identified in the 2016 FutureLearn research compendium (Ferguson et al. 2016). An additional “research” theme was created to accommodate talks focussed on research methods, tools, literature reviews as well. 52 subthemes were found across the 9 areas (research theme was not further analysed).

Themes of FLAN talks 2013 – 2018

1. Develop strategic approach to MOOCs
2. Expand the benefits of teaching and learning in MOOCs
3. Offer well-designed assessment and accreditation
4. Widen participation and extend access.
5. Develop and make effective use of appropriate pedagogies
6. Support the development of educators
7. Make effective use of learning design
8. Develop methods of quality assurance
9. Address issues related to privacy and ethics.

+ Research methods/instruments/lit reviews (*new*)



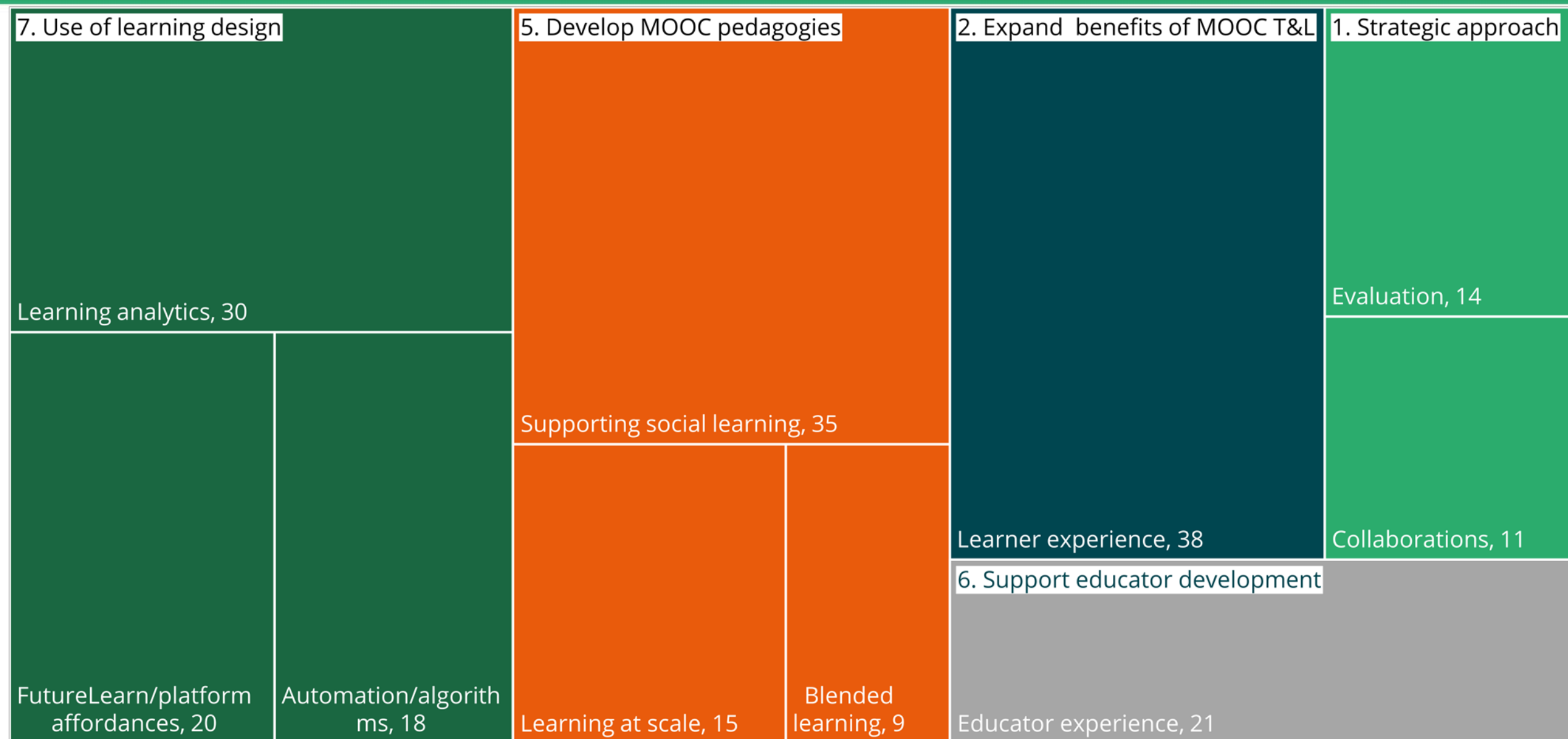
52 subthemes found *(nb: Research area are not analysed further)*

1. Strategy	Public engagement	3	6. Supporting MOOC educators' development	Resourcing MOOCs over time	0
1. Strategy	Wider open education initiative	4	6. Supporting MOOC educators' development	Educator training	3
1. Strategy	Reputation	5	6. Supporting MOOC educators' development	Multi-skilled course teams	4
1. Strategy	General strategy	6	6. Supporting MOOC educators' development	Dashboards	5
1. Strategy	Communities	7	6. Supporting MOOC educators' development	Tutor presence	7
1. Strategy	Org culture/change	7	6. Supporting MOOC educators' development	Educator experience/attitudes	21
1. Strategy	Collaborations	11	7. Effective use of learning design	Personalisation/adaptive design	5
1. Strategy	Evaluation	14	7. Effective use of learning design	Measures to engage learners & reduce drop out	6
2. Expand benefits of T&L on MOOCs	Learner outcomes	4	7. Effective use of learning design	Collaboration - sharing good practice	6
2. Expand benefits of T&L on MOOCs	Learner motivation	6	7. Effective use of learning design	Automation/algorithms	18
2. Expand benefits of T&L on MOOCs	Learner experience	38	7. Effective use of learning design	FL/Platform affordances	20
3. Assessment & accreditation	Good practice guidelines	0	7. Effective use of learning design	Learning analytics	30
3. Assessment & accreditation	Informal assessment	2	8. MOOC quality assurance	Blockchain	2
3. Assessment & accreditation	Informal accreditation	3	8. MOOC quality assurance	Testing and feedback	5
3. Assessment & accreditation	Formal accreditation	4	8. MOOC quality assurance	MOOC QA general	8
3. Assessment & accreditation	Peer feedback (discussions)	9	9. Privacy and ethics	How people make decisions about personal data	1
4. Widen access & participation	Accessibility standards	1	9. Privacy and ethics	Manage copyright	2
4. Widen access & participation	Diverse cohorts	3	9. Privacy and ethics	Informed consent	2
4. Widen access & participation	Increased efforts towards inclusion	6	9. Privacy and ethics	Privacy rules	2
4. Widen access & participation	Widen access	8	9. Privacy and ethics	Sharing personal data	2
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	On boarding	1	Extra	Research methods/instruments/Lit reviews	30
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Gamification	1			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Emotion in learning	2			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Wider use of materials (OER)	2			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Diverse cohorts	3			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Support LTR interactions	3			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Self-regulated/autonomous learning	5			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Learner communities	5			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Co-production of knowledge	5			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Pedagogical innovation	8			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Blended learning	9			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Learning at scale	15			
5. MOOC pedagogies (teaching methods at scale)	Supporting discussion/social learning	35			

Note: List of MOOC tools mentioned in talks

Analytics tools (FLx)	Plagiarism tool	Social media
Comment Discovery Tool	R tools	Teacherbot
FLingo	RapidMiner	UoS Dashboard
GNUPlot	SageMathCloud	Xerox Incremental
Learning manager		Parser
nQuire		

10 most popular subthemes (grouped by area)



References

Ferguson, R., Scanlon, E., & Harris, L. (2016). Developing a Strategic Approach to MOOCs. *Journal of Interactive Media in Education*, 2016(1). <https://doi.org/10.5334/jime.439>

FutureLearn Partners. FLAN meetings. <https://partners.futurelearn.com>