The “Top Ed-Tech Trends” (Aren’t “Tech”)

Audrey Watters
The University of Coventry — April 2017
The best way to predict the future is to issue a press release
The Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2010

• US Politics
• Online Learning
• Mobile Learning
• Social Learning, Social Networks
• Investment in Education Technology
The Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2011

• The iPad
• Social Media: Adoption and Crackdown
• Text-Messaging
• Data (Which Still Mostly Means “Standardized Testing”)
• The Digital Library
• Khan Academy
• STEM Education’s “Sputnik Moment”
• “The Higher Education Bubble”
• “Open”
• The Business of Ed-Tech
The Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2012

- The Business of Ed-Tech
- The Maker Movement
- Learning to Code
- The Flipped Classroom
- MOOCs
- The Battle to Open Textbooks
- Education Data and Learning Analytics
- The Platforming of Education
- Automation and Artificial Intelligence
- The Politics of Ed-Tech
The Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2013

• “Zombie Ideas”
• The Politics of Education / Technology
• Standards
• MOOCs and Anti-MOOCs
• Coding and “Making”
• Hardware
• Data vs Privacy
• The Battle for “Open”
• What Counts “For Credit”
• The Business of Ed-Tech
The Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2014

- Buzzwords
- The Business of Ed-Tech
- School and “Skills”
- MOOCs, Outsourcing, and Online Education
- Competencies and Certificates
- The Common Core State Standards
- Data and Privacy
- The Indie Web
- Social Justice
- #Fail
The Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2015

- The Politics of Education Technology
- Standardized Testing
- “The Employability Narrative”
- Credits and Credentialing
- The Collapse of For-Profit Higher Education (Or Not)
- Beyond the MOOC
- The Compulsion for Data
- Social Media, Campus Activism, and Free Speech
- Indie Ed-Tech
- The Business of Ed-Tech
The Top Ed-Tech Trends of 2016

- Wishful Thinking
- The Politics of Education Technology
- The Business of Education Technology
- “Free” and “Open”
- For-Profit Higher Education
- The “New Economy”
- Credentialing
- Data Insecurity
- The Ideology of Personalization
- Inequality
“Technology is a system. It entails far more than its individual material components” — Ursula Franklin
“The Silicon Valley narrative”
California as “the dream factory”
Technology is never neutral; technology is necessarily ideological
“Embedded in every tool is an ideological bias” — Neil Postman
Education technologies are “ideologically-freighted”
Education technology platforms
The “platforming” of education by technology (and its ideologies)
“The full stack approach to education” — control, ownership
“Platforms are, in a sense, capitalism distilled to its essence” — John Herrman