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Indice

<i>The Community of Inquiry Ten Years Later: A "Less Constructivist" Model?</i> Valentina Grion	5
<i>Metafora ed espressione emotiva in una comunità di apprendimento online</i> Marianna Iodice, Marnicol Elettrico, Maria Beatrice Ligorio	19
<i>Identità digitale e narrazione di sé nell'era del web</i> Roberta Renati, Maria Assunta Zanetti, Valeria Cavioni, Veronica Aloisio	37
<i>Strategie di problem solving in un gruppo di lavoro virtuale: analisi di un caso</i> Maria Galetta, Amelia Manuti	51
<i>Networked Flow. Comprendere e sviluppare la creatività di rete</i> a cura di G. Riva, L. Milani, A. Gaggioli, edizione LED recensione a cura di Marianna Iodice	78



Summary

This issue of Qwerty includes three articles analyzing communication between members of online discussion groups and a book review.

Each article examines the communication process from a particular point of view: linguistics, identity, and group work processes. They also analyze different communicative contexts from formal to informal learning, through to decision making at work. Nevertheless, all the papers delineate their analysis through a socio-constructivist lens.

The first paper, authored by Iodice, Elettrico, and Ligorio, discusses the role of metaphors in university e-learning contexts. The authors suggest that asynchronous communication could be enhanced by using metaphors to express the emotional aspects of formal learning. Using a combination of content and discourse analysis, authors demonstrate that members in learning communities use metaphors in order to consolidate their collective visions of the online experience. Also analyzing university students' narratives, the second paper authored by Renati, Zanetti,

Cavioni, and Aloisio, investigates the construction of Self within informal discussion groups. Using questionnaires and content analysis, the authors show how the students' online identity is on a continuum with their face-to face identity.

Galletta and Manuti, finally, report on the strategies used by team members in workplace settings in order to solve problems and make decisions online. This study adopts discourse and thematic analysis to reveal that problem solving processes in online teams are strictly connected with the reflection of team's functioning and that online team work can be an effective alternative to offline work. Finally, the book review by Iodice is an useful summary of "Networked Flow. Comprendere e sviluppare la creatività di rete" (edited by G. Riva, L. Milani. A. Gaggioli). The reviewer underlines and reflects on the book's main concepts of Innofusion, which represents the connection between creativity and innovation, and Networked Flow, in which creativity and collectivity harmoniously run in a virtual flow.