

Interviewer

I'm here in New South Wales, Australia at a University I can't name. I'm here to interview, Hans and Derek, 2 researchers revolutionizing education. The research is really quite controversial and both of the researchers have asked that their location remain anonymous until their findings are commercialized. Hans and Derek thanks for giving me this scoop.

Hans

It's our pleasure. Our findings are so groundbreaking. We really need to start promoting them.

Derek

Education needs a make over. Thanks for joining us on the run way.

Interviewer

Can you explain why your research is so ground breaking?

Hans

Well there is a strand of research in education that is shunned. Your career is over if you even say the word!

Derek

Styles Styles Learning Styles ha ha there I can say it out loud and proud

Interviewer

Really! I'm a fashion reporter and I find that hard to believe.

Hans

So there was early research that classified learners rather broadly. There were learners that were visual or aural or learnt by doing. I don't think there was anything wrong with the methodology - I mean everybody does research that classifies something or the other. But the learning styles classifications were quite broad. We basically relooked at the styles and found that the main and most important style was missing. The main style that is the way students dress!

Derek

Yes the Learning Style of Style itself.

Interviewer

This is really extraordinary. It seems so obvious from my own study in Paris. How did you know to dig deeper into this older research?

Hans

I give the credit to Derek

Derek

Hans discovered that he could get some teaching and learning grant funding. It was really just a way to show his head of school and dean that he is trying to improve student evaluations. The simplest project I could think of, that would require minimal effort on my part as his post doc, was to take some recent conference publications and create a word2vec embedding. I spent an hour and by chance found a cluster of synonym words. It was really intriguing. I realised that the research in learning styles has indeed continued, but researchers were just afraid to use the word styles. They instead used any synonym. Words like Strategy, Profile, Persona, Case and Strand were used in many many papers. It just took a huge intensive algorithm like word2vec to uncover it.

Hans

I encouraged Derek to use the rest of the grant money to explore additional dimensions of Learning styles

Derek

It was really obvious to me with my fashion sense exactly what was missing. I mean as a tutor in engineering I could always infer a student's grades based on how they dress and attend a tutorial or exam. I really wanted to find the Hot Dog Not Hot Dog equivalent for education. I look up to Jian Yang, who is currently based in Silicon Valley.

Interviewer

What are the implications of your research?

Hans

We can classify students based on dress sense and there is a strong correlation with grades. We know what a student wears when they are about to drop out. We know how students dress when they are not prepared for an exam.

Derek

The true wearable wearable!

Hans

Amazing research avenues have opened up. Deep learning algorithms we thought we could not use in education are now relevant. We can now recommend what students need to wear to do well. We are the first research team to use ARKit and Generative Adversarial Networks to fill lecture rooms with engaged students and transform teaching spaces. Derek made me an ARKit Engagement Selfies app. I can take a selfie in an empty lecture room but my dean sees me with 100's of engaged and well dressed students. Nobody believes my student evaluations anymore! It's just great tech.

Interviewer

Derek what have you found challenging in implementing this research?

Derek

Footwear. We basically have to ignore footwear. The Aussie Thong goes with everything. Students know this and wear it all the time. We can't do anything creative in winter either because students either still wear thongs or they wear ugg boots, another aussie classic.

Interviewer

I've heard that you have been approached by a few big name researchers?

Hans

All of the big name learning analytics researchers are heading to Australia but we have attracted perhaps the biggest names. Both Derek Zoolander and Hansel are impressed by our research and will join our team.

Derek

Our namesakes, almost ha ha

Hans

Derek Zoolander has always funded the building of small schools. Zoolander wants to explore the impact of blue steel on student facial and emotion classification. Hansel wants to replace the oral presentation with a walk off. Together we will redefine Learning Design! We will all found Learning Design Inc.

Derek

Yes we put the Design into Learning Design. Learning Design finally has proper design tools!

Interviewer

I really wish I was a student again. Thanks for sharing your research. I encourage everybody to visit your website and explore the many other related projects.

Derek

Yes please check out Transformed Teaching Spaces, Flipped Engagement, Non Adaptive Repetitive Assessment for Bit Coin Mining, Shades of Emotion and Gamified Grades.