

Monthly Wrap

Peeragogy Monthly Wrap: 2020-04 to 2020-09

Introduction

30 October 2020 – CHICAGOLAND – Hello again, dear reader, and happy Friday!

It is with a bounce in my keyboard click that I greet you with this fresh wrap-up of our peeragogical activities from April to September! We have made supercalifragilisticexpialidocious¹ progress on our paper, course, software, podcast, and more!! :-)

¹ <https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/supercalifragilisticexpialidocious#Adjective>

Project Action Review For the shortform version of what we've done over the past six months, peep this PAR, or Project Action Review (formerly "Peeragogy Action Review" and "Paragogy Action Review").

1. Review the intention: what do/did we expect to learn or make together?

- Produce meaningful learning products.

2. Establish what is happening: what and how are we learning?

- We've been reading, reviewing texts, doing side projects, meeting in smaller groups, and developing educational techniques. We continue to learn how face-to-face interaction (online video conferencing in this case) goes a long way towards building understanding, open mindsets, and empathy.

3. What are some different perspectives on what's happening?

- It has not been a linear path over the last six months, but we feel there has been constructive progress. We are extending our reach through media like podcasting that makes our work more accessible to people in all walks of life and allows us to explore our concepts over time. Arguments have emerged that have largely been resolved through acceptance of good intentions. We have found peeragogy can tolerate disagreement, conflict, and/or value differences.

4. What did we learn or change?

- We learned the value of managing expectations, being clear about policies and values, leaning on friends we never met in physical space, all the while continuing to be productive during the COVID-19 pandemic. We learned that simply sending someone over to our website or discussion group to explain peeragogy does not result in immediate understanding about the project. A more welcoming interface is needed. We also learned that our initial, emotional reactions to others' expressed values or changes in process seldom reflect reality of others' intentions.

² https://groups.google.com/g/peeragogy/c/dlMaefBmCzA/m/P9F_tz8HBAAJ

³ <https://github.com/Peeragogy/Peeragogy.github.io/wiki/Monthly-Wrap:-March-2020>

⁴ <https://github.com/Peeragogy/course/raw/master/Presentation%20Peeragogy.pptx>

⁵ <https://github.com/Peeragogy/course/blob/master/semester2.md>

⁶ <https://groups.google.com/g/peeragogy/c/1sHBvhvhhGY/m/cL4AqFU0AgAJ>

⁷ <https://groups.google.com/g/peeragogy/c/NFvRgV96r54/m/Na7hd9rIAQAJ>

⁸ <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/futures/call-for-papers/3rd-international-conference-on-anticipation>

⁹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNDJ80U0jwWqDumY0KZCLrtgpD4KQp7y/view?usp=sharing>

¹⁰ <https://gitlab.com/skreutzer/peeragogy-monthly-wrap-experimental>

5. What should we change going forward?

- Continue to evolve, listen, and pursue opportunities².
- Think in a sustainable way to make the group self-sufficient possibly by creating sellable products (books, articles, courses, etc.) so that the group can have more than one website and raise our visibility.
- Create an accessible “dashboard” or graphical interface that will engage non-technical people who can benefit from the patterns and best practices.
- Take participants’ well considered proposals at face value and imagine them being successful before rejecting or opposing them.

Course

Following our engaging first semester of the Course in early 2020 (read our March wrap³ for details) led by Joe Corneli, we completed semester two in April and May. Charlotte Pierce and myself, Charlie Danoff, co-organized and participants included Vitor Bruno and Hermano Cintra out of Brazil. One of the highlights was a powerful presentation Hermano did on digital collaboration in open-source communities (download the slides⁴). You can find details about the sessions and some videos on the syllabus⁵.

Additionally in August we submitted a second proposal to Tufts University to teach a course⁶ that was not accepted⁷, but that’s okay. We will continue to refine the course and plan to offer it again!

Paper

We finished multiple drafts of our paper we are planning to submit for a special issue of the Futures Journal⁸. We are looking at how pattern languages that have been helpful for architecture and software development can help people better anticipate the future. We have a draft of the paper available for public comment⁹, please take a look and let us know what you think!

Software

Led by Stephan Kreutzer, the technical side of the project has released some exciting new software to help humans improve their peer learning and peer production! One tool for this specific wrap¹⁰ generates the beautiful PDF and EPUB versions of this wrap you may be currently reading! Another tool still under development offers a place for us to enter our Project Action Reviews in a simple manner so that they can be easily stored, organized, and used for future learning adventures!

Podcast

The Peeragogy Podcast has been launched, with the first two episodes live-streamed to YouTube¹¹, Facebook¹², and LinkedIn¹³. On September 26th Intro to Peeragogy¹⁴ and October 1st Wikipedia vs. Misinformation¹⁵. Recordings remain on those platforms, and the universe can subscribe to the audio version via all major podcast apps like Apple¹⁶, Google¹⁷, Stitcher¹⁸, SoundCloud, Spotify¹⁹, Podverse²⁰ and others. Our intent is to explore the research and cool tools we have developed since the inception of the project in 2012, and to make our design patterns, software, and best practices accessible to a broader audience.

The power of check-ins and clear communication

And now we have a special feature from one of our very talented peeragogues.

Joe Corneli (LONDON), 26 August 2020

I read about the power of check-ins and clear communication in “Don’t Hold My Head Down” by Lucy-Anne Holmes (Unbound, 2019).

“‘It is nice to meet you,’ he started, but then he screwed his face up [...] ‘But you’re so fast. You’re like a volcano. I don’t know how I feel about you. Sometimes I want to run away.’” (p. 61)

“The Germans frequently ask each other a question that I’d never heard before. Ever. Well, except maybe at the doctor’s. And it was this: ‘How are you feeling in your body?’” (p. 63)

Lucy ultimately learns to overcome her apprehensions, and is honest with her crush (the Dark-Haired German) about how she feels about him. Things go quite well for them after that! I might not have made much of all this, if I hadn’t just read something related in another book, “Designing Your Life” by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans (Knopf Doubleday, 2016).

“We define discernment as decision making that employs more than one way of knowing. We mostly use cognitive knowing—all that good, objective, organized, informational kind of knowing—the sort of knowing that gets you A’s in school. But we also have other ways of knowing, including the affective forms of intuitive, spiritual, and emotional knowing. Add to these both social knowing (with others) and kinesthetic knowing (in our bodies).”

I was then pleasantly surprised to join one of the Wrap production meetings and find Stephan and Charlie talking about the possibility of setting up a simple form to facilitate check-ins in the peeragogy project. I imagine this might be a little bit like mood messages in Skype ☺. If we got this feature up and running, we could take a quick look at the peeragogy dashboard and see how everyone is doing. Of course, it would not be necessary to share any information there if you did not want to. People just wouldn’t know how you’re doing right away.

Still, if enough people opted in, I think this kind of thing could be really powerful. Imagine if everyone attending a meeting shared a short written check-in

¹¹ <https://www.youtube.com/c/PeeragogyOrgHandbook/videos>

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/peeragogy/videos/>

¹³ <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12297769/>

¹⁴ <https://podverse.fm/episode/sN1S6xZnkf>

¹⁵ <https://podverse.fm/episode/33-Av6XKn>

¹⁶ <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-peeragogy-podcast/id1533691694>

¹⁷ <https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9mZWVkcyc50cmFuc2lzdG9yLmZtL3B1ZXJhZ29neS1wb2RjYXN0>

¹⁸ <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/face-the-book-tv/the-peeragogy-podcast>

¹⁹ <https://open.spotify.com/show/51qfCbVsYhU3V60xEpjHoz>

²⁰ <https://podverse.fm/podcast/RDPpDc8bVr>

with each other before the meeting, saying how things are going, and what's on their mind. This would be quick to prepare, quick to read, and it could help everyone make the most of their time in the meeting. High-priority concerns might get some direct attention, and there would be less chance of anyone being tone-deaf to someone else's concerns. For now, this is just a proposal, but it could quickly start to become a reality. Like the PAR I think this could significantly improve our way of working together. But, before we go much further with this, I hope everyone will consider sharing any preliminary reflections or concerns about the proposal!

Random Tidbits

²¹ <https://www.codingrights.org/crt-lz-ai-zine-fair-barcelona/>

²² https://www.appropedia.org/Principles_for_an_Equitable_and_Effective_Crisis_Response

²³ <https://en.unesco.org/news/launch-unesco-dynamic-coalition-open-education-resources-oer>

²⁴ <https://justiceinjune.org>

²⁵ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H-Vxs6jEUByXylMS2BjGH1kQ7mEuZnHpPSs1Bpaqmw0/preview>

²⁶ <https://dornsife.usc.edu/news/stories/3242/usc-alumnae-create-webspace-to-fight-racism>

²⁷ <https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?u=a9916670324642ca86ad95ab4&iid=5a051750f4>

²⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bpsRWbpxig>

²⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhgCW1PJ008>

³⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPKtk5vUtDY>

³¹ <https://groups.google.com/g/peeragogy/c/NStX-vt111M/m/Wr-N8Vz1AwAJ>

- Oracle for Transfeminist Technologies²¹ is a “a hands-on card deck designed to help us collectively envision and share ideas for transfeminist technologies from the future.”
- Principles for an Equitable and Effective Crisis Response²²
- An Open Educational Resources coalition²³ was launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.
- Justice in June²⁴ started as a Google Doc²⁵ by Bryanna Wallace and Autumn Gupta to give people a structured approach to learn about racial injustice, breaking it down into 10, 25, and 45 minutes per day increments as is detailed in this article²⁶.
- I was interviewed by the talented people working on the Coronavirus Tech Handbook²⁷.

Mixtape

1. Rick Astley – “Kunsthau”: Farbe ist meine Welt²⁸
2. KOMPROMAT – Einfach da sein²⁹
3. Portugal. The Man – Feel It Still³⁰

Special Thanks

To Charlotte, Joe, Vitor and Stephan for their help with this one! Gracias also to those who responded to the call for contributions³¹!

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