



Building Collaborative Learning Environments: The Effects of Trust and Its Relationship to Learning in the 3-D Virtual Education Environment of Second Life

By Dr. Christina B Steele

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Paperback. 142 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.3in. 3-D immersive virtual worlds as exemplified by Second Life are used for entertainment, business, and education purposes, and to facilitate a wide variety of activities online. Meanwhile, researchers also see the significant impact of such environments on distance learning. However, most research in this area has focused on the use of virtual worlds as a tool for enhancing engagement but there is a lack of research on the how trust affects learning in the virtual world. Managing teams of students and faculty in this context requires a deeper understanding of people, processes, technology, and the role of trust in virtual worlds compared to face-to-face interactions. Researchers still have little knowledge of the value of these virtual worlds as educational platforms. This dissertation, therefore attempts to fill a gap by exploring, in particular, the potential learning benefits enabled by the educator building trust in these unique environments. The research methodology is based on Creswells qualitative design, and Bojes storytelling construct is used to explore trust in virtual environments used for learning. An extensive review of published research led to the discovery of learning affordances such as...



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