

SoLAR Webinar, Oct 16th, 2019

# DESIGNING LEARNING ANALYTICS FOR HUMANS WITH HUMANS

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## Meet Our Team



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Sophia Lu



Sophie Sommer



**Trang Tran** 



**Eunyoung Jeon** 





## With thanks to our amazing partners at NYU-IT



Ben Maddox Chief Instructional Technology Officer



Andrew Brackett

Learning Analytics Specialist

Robert Egan

eLearning Specialist



Jason Korenkiewicz

Director of Instructional Technology Tools & Services



Elizabeth McAlpin

Project Director of Research & Outcomes Assessment





And the many members of the larger LEARN community across NYU who participated in the projects described today

## Stern School of Business

Kristen Sosulski

Ben Bowman

Sean Diaz

**Marian Tes** 

Daniel de Valk

## Faculty of Arts & Sciences

Selin Kalaycioglu Lucy Appert Tyrell Davis

## NYU Libraries

**Andrew Battista** 

**Denis Rubin** 

School for Professional Studies

Victoria Axelrod

"LEARNING ANALYTICS EXIST AS PART OF A SOCIO-TECHNICAL SYSTEM WHERE HUMAN DECISION-MAKING AND CONSEQUENT ACTIONS ARE AS MUCH A PART OF ANY SUCCESSFUL ANALYTICS SOLUTION AS THE TECHNICAL COMPONENTS"

VAN HARMELEN & WORKMAN (2012)





## AND YET ...





ONLY 6% OF STUDENT-FACING

LEARNING ANALYTICS SYSTEMS DESCRIBED

IN THE LITERATURE 2004-2016 REPORTED A

CLEAR, EXPLICIT NEEDS ANALYSIS

AND ONLY 11% REPORTED ANY FORM OF

USABILITY TESTING







## AND YET . . .





ONLY 30% OF DASHBOARDS

DESCRIBED IN THE LITERATURE 2010-

2015 INCLUDED A REPORT OF

AUTHENTIC USER EVALUATION

SCHWENDIMANN ET AL. (2016)





## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?





MISALIGNMENT BETWEEN

DESIGNERS' INTENTIONS AND

STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS CAN

RESULT IN DISTRUST OF LA
TOOLS

DE QUINCEY ET AL. (2019)







## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?







CONSIDERATION OF USER'S NEEDS

AND THE SITUATIONS IN WHICH THEY

WILL USE THEM ARE UNLIKELY TO

IMPACT REAL WORLD PRACTICES IN

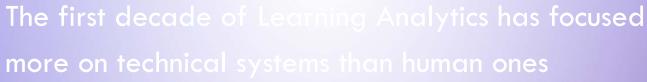
ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY



CUBAN (2001)



## IN SUMMARY



This represents a large gulf with what is known about best practices for Human-Computer Interaction Design

Consequently there is now great interest in involving the intended users of learning analytics in their design

Spotlight on these issues in recent JLA Special Section on Human-Centred Learning Analytics



#### Journal of Learning Analytics 6(2) - Summer 2019



learning-analytics.info

#### **Special Section: Human-Centred Learning Analytics**

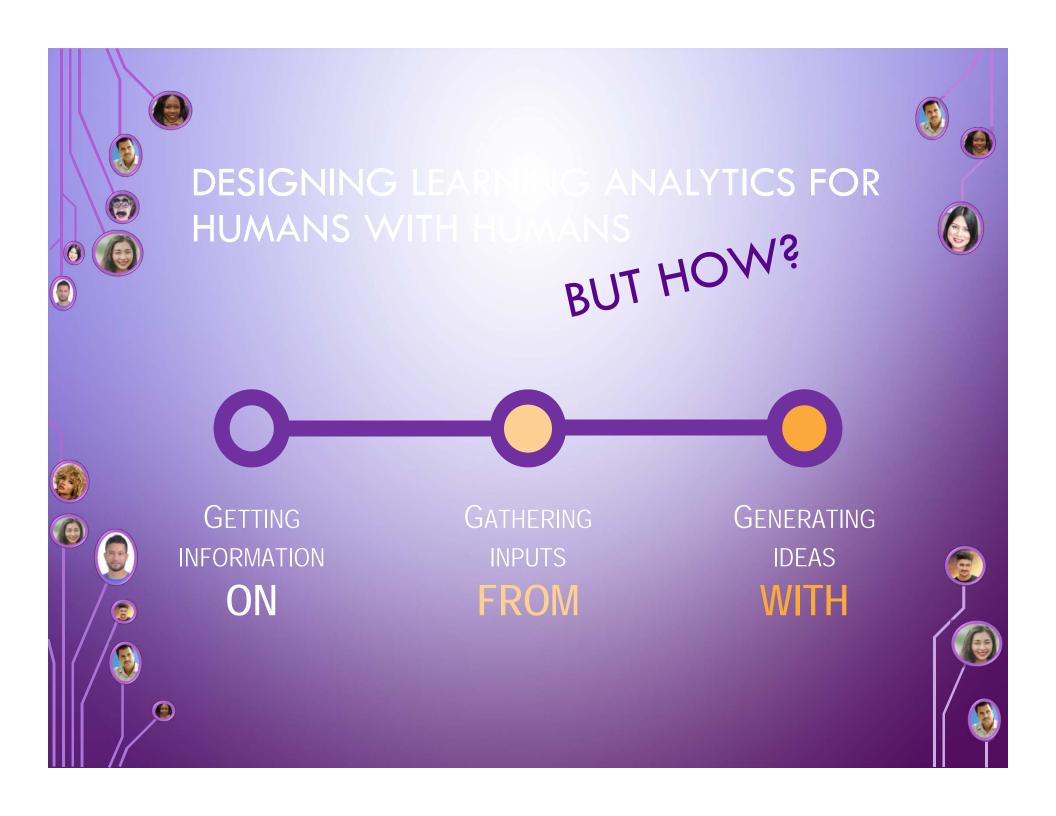
Working Together in Learning Analytics: Towards the Co-Creation of Value

Co-Designing a Real-Time Classroom Orchestration Tool to Support Teacher-Al Complementarity

Teaching with Analytics: Towards a Situated Model of Instructional Decision-Making

Designing in Context: Reaching Beyond Usability in Learning Analytics Dashboard Design

Engaging Faculty in Learning Analytics: Agents of Institutional Culture Change







a collaborative effort, focused on community change, that puts people, not data, first

We build *partnerships*between researchers,
information technology staff,
faculty, administrators and
students to *jointly advance*data-informed teaching and
learning

We *create* and *support* effective teaching and learning *tools* that *augment human capacity* to improve educational processes





Instructional Dashboard

Collaboration
Analytics

Intro STEM<br/>Early Alerts

Student Facing Analytics

Instrumented Learning Spaces

Reflection Analytics

Presentation Feedback Tool

Discussion Analytics





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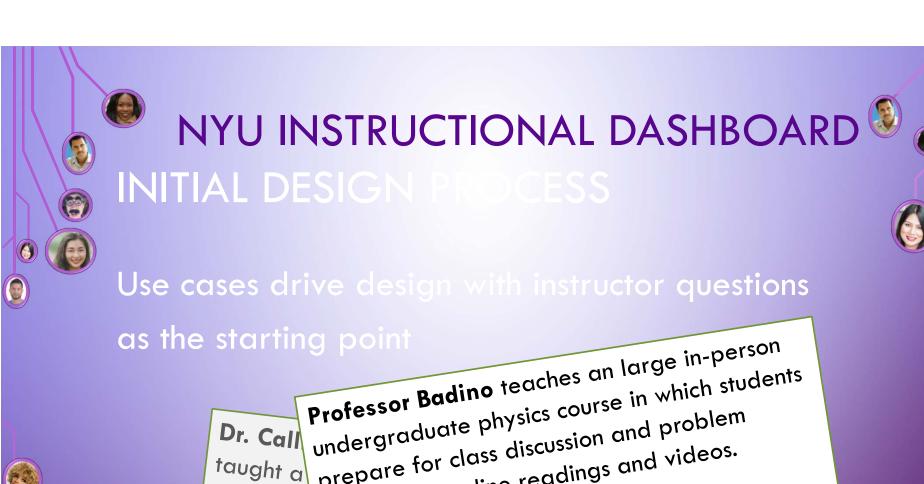
# NYU INSTRUCTIONAL DASHBOARD (INITIAL DESIGN PROCESS)



- University-wide service to operate at scale
- Support data-informed decision-making
- Instructor of record at the heart of service

### Some starting strategies

- Draw on existing knowledge and relationships
- Get an early version in the hands of humans
- Iterate quickly, scale slowly



taught a prepare for class discussion and problem material prepare tor cluss and videos.

solving with online readings and videos.

containing Prof. Badino wants to better understand expanded e relationships between student interaction with pre-class materials, in-class question scores, In preparation and their achievement on weekly quizzes

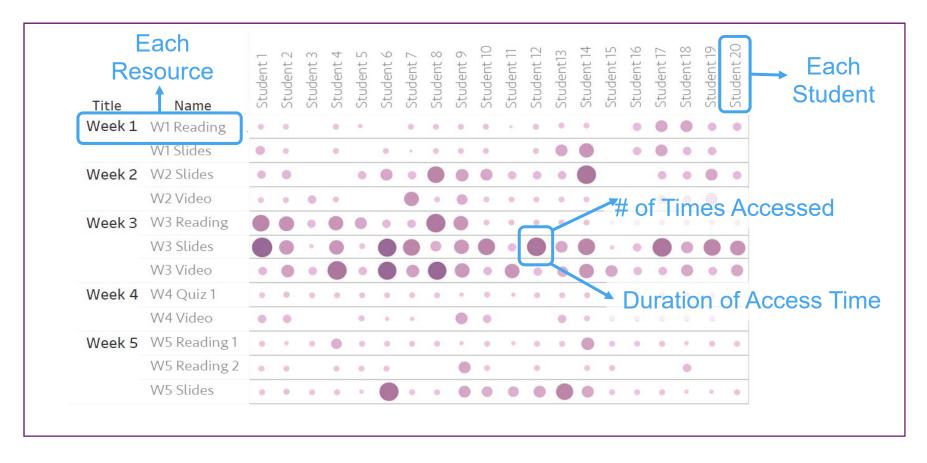
differences be cen online and in-person



## Learning Analytics Dashboard Design v1

### **Resource Activity** View

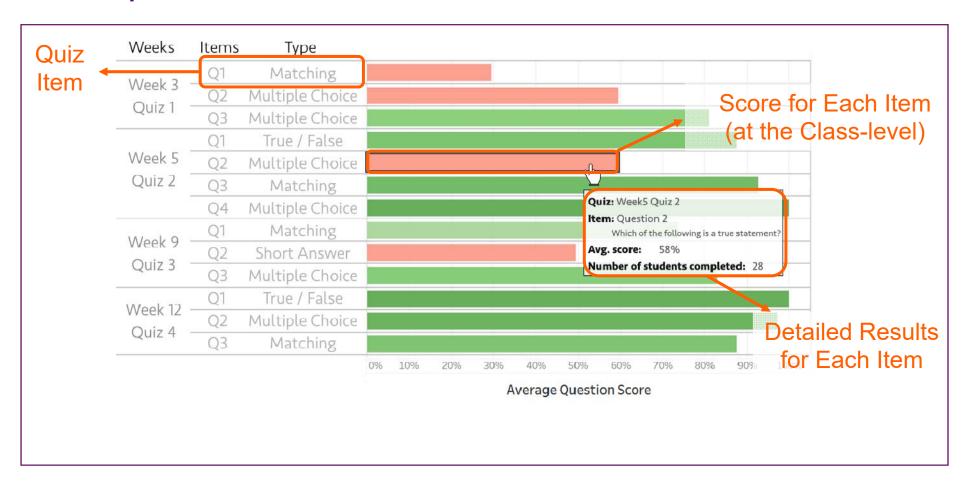
Purpose To identify students (engaging / not engaging with the resources) & resources (frequently / infrequently accessed)



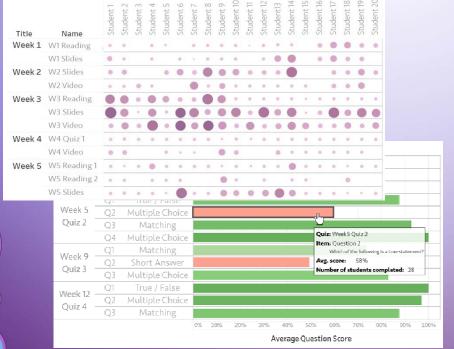
## **Learning Analytics Dashboard Design v1**

#### **Quiz Results** View

**Purpose** To identify **aspects of the materials** which were difficult for students



# NYU INSTRUCTIONAL DASHBOARD FIRST FORAYS TO HE FIELD











## NYU INSTRUCTIONAL DASHBOARD







(Not surprisingly) the process of actually using analytics to inform pedagogical decisions is complex

Instructors' excitement & high perceived value around analytics release/use



**Struggles** in connecting the data with their teaching and routines



Tool-provided **data** about student activity



Use of information to guide sense-making & pedagogical action



We need to examine the process of analytics use in situ





## **Key Questions**

In what ways do instructors make pedagogical decisions based on analytic data?

What implications for LA design and implementation can be drawn based on this?

## **Approach**

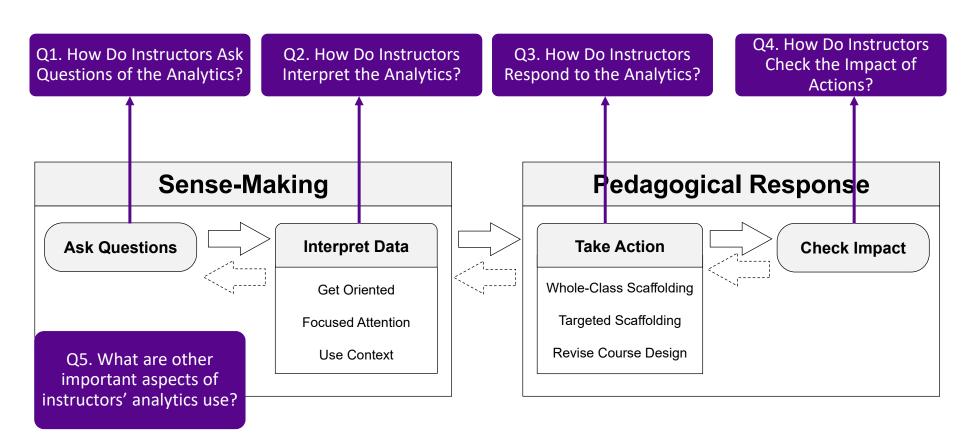
Case studies with all 5 instructors who used the LA dashboard in their teaching during that first semester

We need to examine the process of analytics use in situ



## **Template for Inquiry**

starting from the literature





## **Emergent Themes**

## Q1. How Do Instructors Ask Questions of the Analytics?

Approaching the Analytics Based on Existing Areas of Curiosity

Developing Questions through Interacting with the Analytics

## Q2. How Do Instructors Interpret the Analytics?

Getting Oriented through Focused Attention to the Analytics

Examining Changes of Student Engagement over Time

The Need for a Reference Point

Triangulating the Analytics with Additional Information abut Student

Using the Course Context to Explain/Question the Analytics

Inconsistent Attribution of Analytic Results

Data Interpretation Is Affective as Well as Cognitive

## Q3. How Do Instructors Respond to the Analytics?

Taking Action via Whole Class Scaffolding

Taking Actions via Targeted Scaffolding

Taking Actions via Revising Course Design

Wait-and-See

Reflecting on Pedagogical Strategies and Knowledge

Wrestling with Questions of Transparency around Analytics

Q4. How Do Instructors
Check the Impact of
Actions?

Potential Value of Collaborative Interpretation

Disconnection between Pedagogical Approaches and Data Presented

Misalignment between Instructor and System Timing

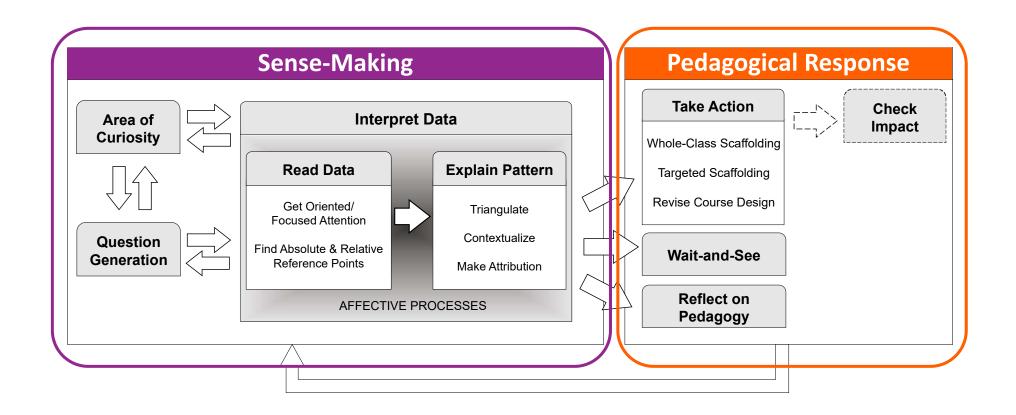
Analytics Seen as Useful but not Essential

Experiencing a Learning Curve in Analytics Use

Q5. What are Other Important Aspects of Instructor Analytics Use?



## A Model of Instructor Analytics Use



Wise, A. F., & Jung, Y. (2019). Teaching with Analytics: Towards a Situated Model of Instructional Decision-Making. *Journal of Learning Analytics*, *6*(2), 53-69.



The model offers a clear starting place to (re)design LA to support instructors' pedagogical decision-making by guiding designers in thinking ahead to instructor use during the design process

#### **Implications for Dashboard Redesign**

I. Design to Support Processes Use

Features for **Question Generation** & Maintenance

**Visual Aids** for Finding **Entry Points** 

Support for Working with **Reference Points** 

Flags for Later Decisions to Take Action

II. Align Information with Pedagogical Concerns

**Organize Information** from Teaching Perspective

**Align** System **Timing** with Teaching **Practices** 

III. Support Sense-making Conversations

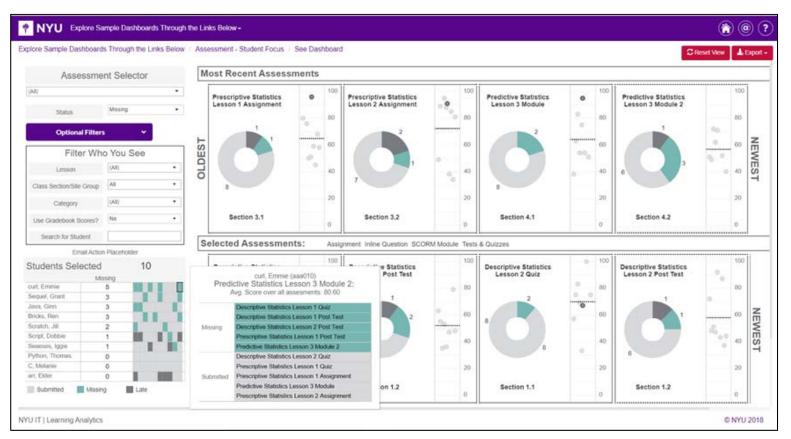
Switch to De-identified Views for Sharing



## Our partnership with IT has led to new models of dashboard (re)design and iterative improvement cycles

## **Learning Analytics Dashboard Design v2**

**Assessment** View





## Along with design efforts, it is also important to consider implementation supports to facilitate translating information into actionable insights.

#### **Implications for Implementation Supports**

I. Link Pedagogical Questions, Answers, & Actions Together

Interpretive dashboard shell plus weekly emails

II. Support Collaborative Interpretation & Feedback

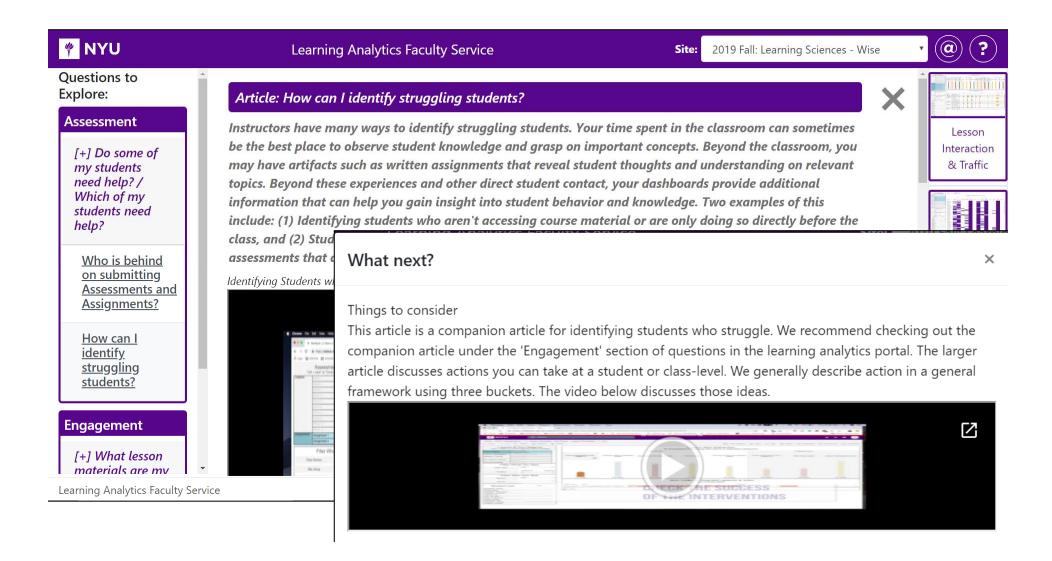
**Workshops & One-on-one coaching sessions** 

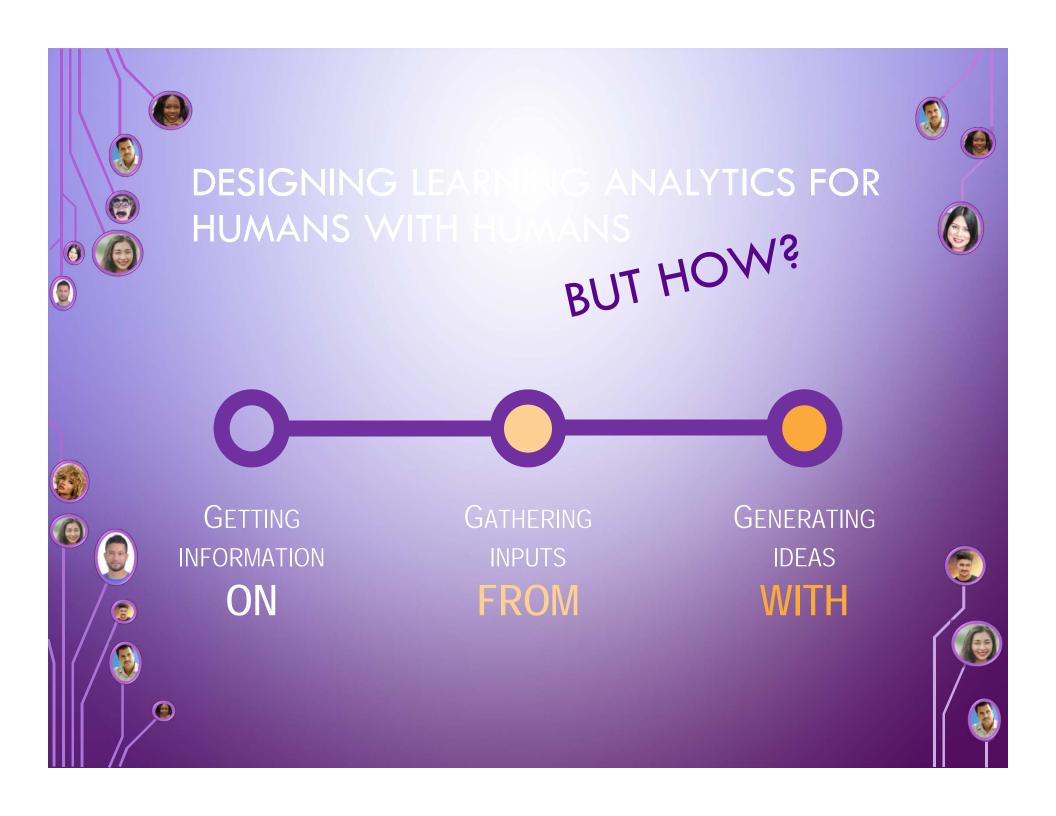
III. Cultivate Contextualized & On-Going Networks

Local instructor communities of practice around analytics use

## **Learning Analytics Dashboard Portal Design**

#### **Struggling Students** Article









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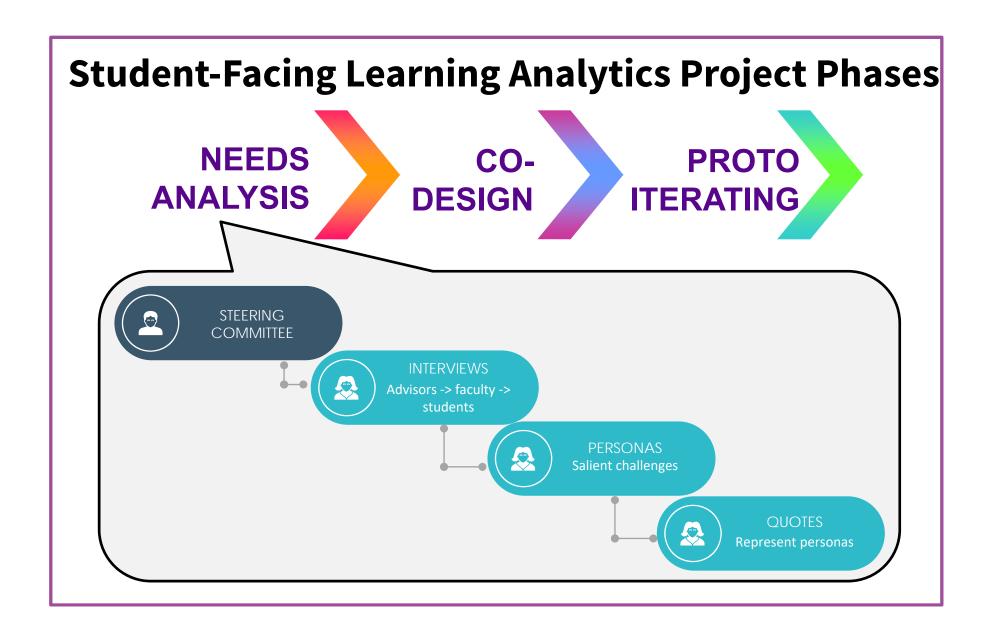


## **Co-Designing Student-Facing Learning Analytics** NYU LEARN NYU IT + School EdTech Student Advisors Students



## **Key Questions for Participatory Design** Who is in the room? (VON HIPPEL, 2005) What do they see? What are they told? What are they invited to do? (VERBERT, 2014) At what stages of the process do they participate? Note that students are frequently excluded (MARJANOVIC, 2014)







Three 5-hr Design Sessions

10 Student Participants Human-Centered Design Methodology

## THREE KEY DESIGN INGREDIENTS



## WIDE PROBLEM SCOPE

The dashboard, data and academics are not the limit. Project objectives flexible from the beginning.



**SAFE DESIGN SPACE** 



**GENERATIVE TENSIONS** 

## THREE KEY DESIGN INGREDIENTS



WIDE PROBLEM SCOPE



SAFE DESIGN SPACE

Doc students led workshops for undergrads: a learning experience for everyone involved.



**GENERATIVE TENSIONS** 

## THREE KEY DESIGN INGREDIENTS



WIDE PROBLEM SCOPE



**SAFE DESIGN SPACE** 



## **GENERATIVE TENSIONS**

Leveraging tensions as fuel for design; going beyond "tell me what you want".

#### Workshop Process **Empathy DT Mini** Ice **Data** Mapping & Lecture **Mapping** breaker **Personas** Iteration & **Short-List Paper** Ideation Prototyping **Prototyping** of ideas

## THREE FUNDAMENTAL TOOLS



#### **EMPATHY MAPPING**

The entire design process was centered what on what the defined *personas* would feel or think about our ideas.



**DESIGN CARDS** 



**LIVE PROTOTYPING** 



## **Student Persona Descriptions**

#### **OS (Overwhelmed Student)**

- College feels a lot more challenging than high school
- Is reassessing who they are (not the best in class any more)
- May have some habits that could be improved around:
  - Writing
  - Time management
  - Advocating for themselves

#### **FG** (First Gen Transitioner)

- NYU perceived as great opportunity: stakes very high
- Generally very proficient and recognized in their environments but not recognized as much in new space
- May feel different to classmates
- High pressure from family and fear of failure
- May have trouble navigating additional opportunities



## **Student Personas Shared via Quotes**

#### **Olivia (Overwhelmed Student)**

#### Says

- I used to do well in school. Really well. I was the Valedictorian, and I always knew that I wanted to come to NYC. Now I am not so sure.
- I am confused about my grades. I am good at studying. I did well in school.

#### Does

 Tends to open the readings one or two days before class, sometimes the morning before the class itself.

#### **Frank (First Gen Transitioner)**

#### Says

- I had a friend, one of these mentors, that told me how to navigate the statistics course.... there was all this stuff out there. I wish he would have told me earlier.
- I have learned to pace myself when studying, and do a little every day. I don't know where I got that from, maybe another student.

#### Does

 Studies a bit every day. Without much structure; just allots a number of hours to study and reads or writes whatever is most urgent.



## **EMPATHY MAPPING**



## THREE FUNDAMENTAL TOOLS



**EMPATHY MAPPING** 



#### **DESIGN CARDS**

A deck of cards allowed students to ask new questions about the data and see new angles and possibilities.



LIVE PROTOTYPING



DESIGN CARDS



## THREE FUNDAMENTAL TOOLS



**EMPATHY MAPPING** 



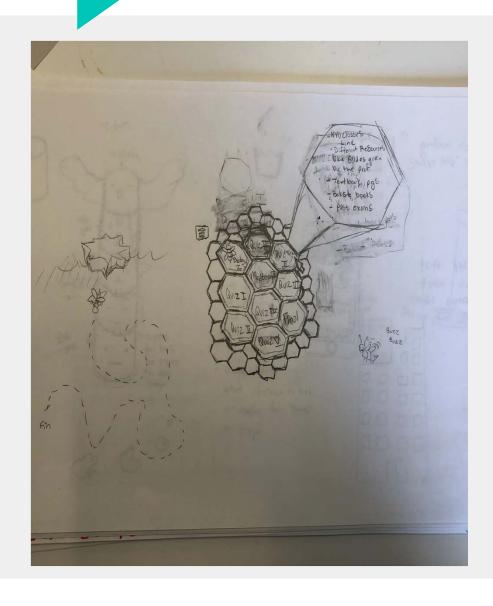
**DESIGN CARDS** 



#### **LIVE PROTOTYPING**

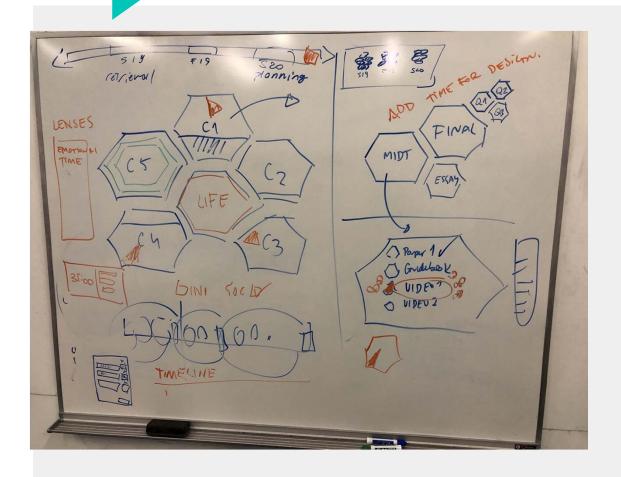
A UX designer materialized ideas into sketches with students in situ, during the workshops.

## "HIVE" design - from Ideation to Prototype



First ideas drawn by students

#### "HIVE" design - from Ideation to Prototype



Design
expanded
and reflected
back by
facilitators
and live
designer

## "HIVE" design - from Ideation to Prototype



First digital prototype brought back to the students for feedback

## "HIVE" design – from Ideation to Prototype

NYU | hive







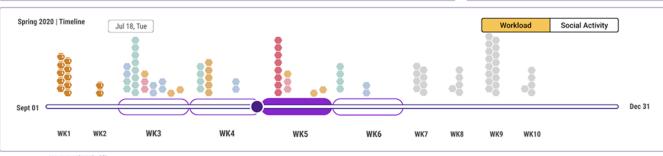












cross course assignment weight that already gained - hopefully provide some motivation. aggregated by week. 2-week detailed view, workload is shown by courses, and by day of the week.

When hover over the hex column, specific date shows up.

cross course again, for longer term

#### **EMERGENT THEMES FROM STUDENTS**

#### [Data]

Using data was as only part of the story. Thus, students came up with tools that are more than dashboards.

#### **Holistic**

Students underscored needs beyond academic help.

#### **Social**

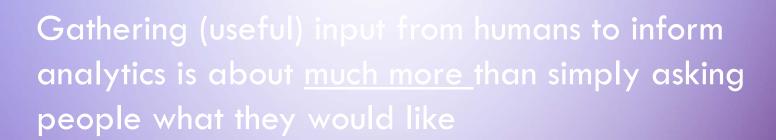
Sharing of information through the system seen as one of the powerful possibilities of data.



## **Student-Facing Learning Analytics Project Phases**



# FINAL TAKEAWAYS FOR DESIGNING LA FOR HUMANS WITH HUMANS



Both efforts described here led to a variety of things we never would have imagined otherwise

There was a concern with burdening already overstretched students and instructors, but they appreciated being involved in the processes



## Special thanks to the LEARN PhD students who spearheaded work on the projects described today



Yeonji Jung



JP Saramiento



**Fabio Campos** 

## Thank you and I'm happy to answer any questions









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