



# Exploring Students' Engagements with Online Discussion

Liping Deng

Allan H. K. Yuen

Robert Fox

Faculty of Education

# THE Team...

Dr. Bob Fox

Dr. Allan Yuen



# Our Project

Course Management  
Systems in Higher  
Education: A Lever for  
Educational Change



Systemic ILN Integration  
into Faculty of Education

Building Communities of  
Good Practices in Using IT  
in the Curriculum

# Our Project

Architecture

Social  
Science

Arts

Science

Business &  
Economics

Medicine

Dentistry

Law

Education

Engineering



## Teachers' Profile

- Experienced user of discussion forum on ILN
- Diligent online facilitator
- believe in voluntary/free discussion
- first time teaching BA&BEd students



# Study Context

- Core course
- Year 2 BA&BEEd students
- Exposure to multiple CMS
- “self-motivated, autonomous and keen”

**But...**





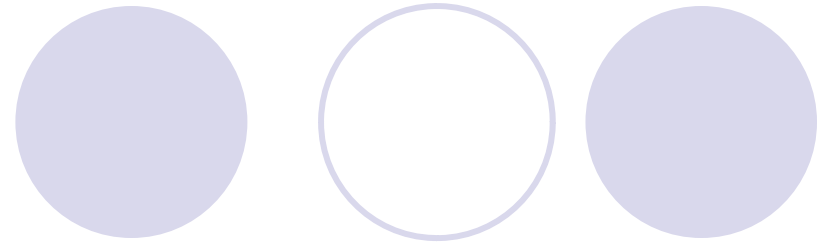
# Research Questions

- What are the factors that influenced students' participation in the online discussion?
- How to make a meaningful and engaging online discussion as a supplement to F2F teaching?

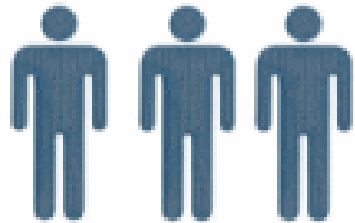




# Data Collection



- Informal interviews with the lecturer
- Questionnaire (n=23)
- Students focus group interviews ( 2x3 )



# Emerging Themes

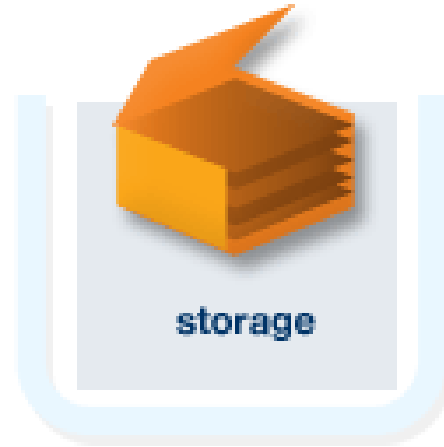


## Determinants for online participation

- Perceptions of CMS
- Perceptions of online discussion
- Preference for other media
- Low participation
- Constraint of discussion forum
- Assessment

# Perceptions of CMS

CMS =



storage

Past Experience



# Perceptions of Online Discussion

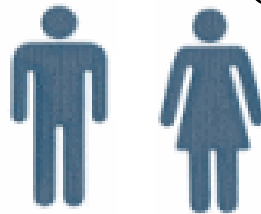
**Student-to-teacher  
interaction**

Email

Reflective journals

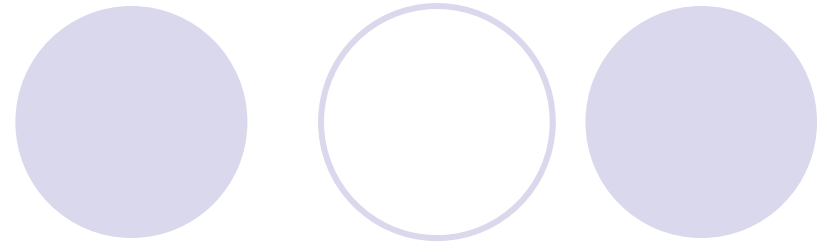
**Student-to-student  
interaction**

Phone, Email, MSN,



**Preference for other media**

# Low Participation



Constraint of discussion forum



Assessment

**80%**

- Teachers' participation/feedback/facilitation
- Tasks/topics for discussion
- Assessment criteria

# To recap...

Perceptions of CMS

Perceptions of online discussion

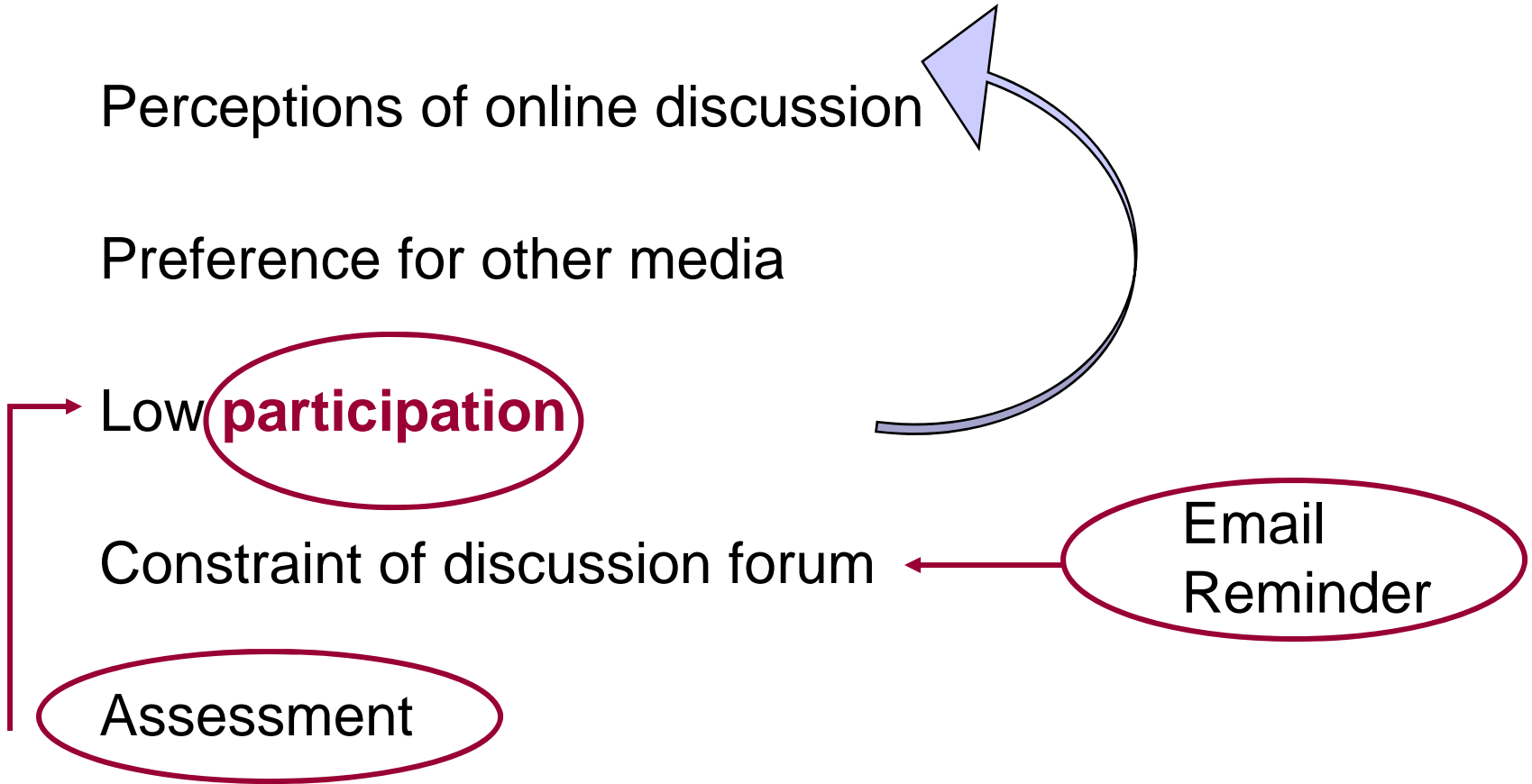
Preference for other media

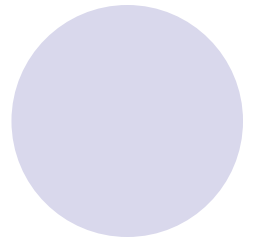
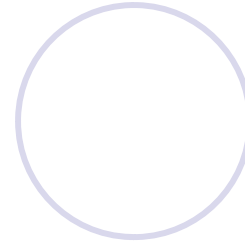
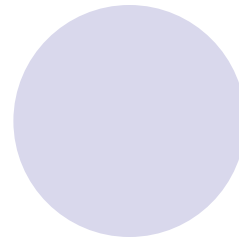
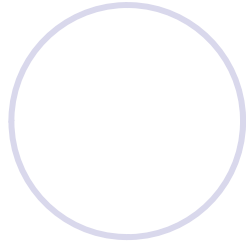
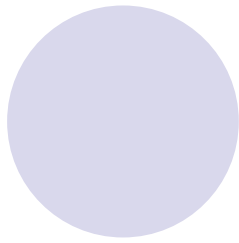
Low **participation**

Constraint of discussion forum

**Assessment**

**Email  
Reminder**





Questions?  
Comments?  
Suggestions?

All are welcome!