

LOPI in Online Gaming Communities

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Purpose

Research Question:
How do online gaming communities organize participation in ways that incorporate children, allowing them to contribute by observing and pitching in?

Data & Methods

Research Participants:
Immigrant family from Cuernavaca, Mexico. Spanish is the primary language spoken at home.

Data: Interviews, Video Recordings, Surveys, Field Notes, Activity Logs

Results

Online gaming communities are organized in ways that allow children to:

- 1) Cooperate with others across time and space to complete shared tasks



- 2) Learn by observing YouTube videos and pitch in through their gameplay



- 3) Become incorporated into online gaming communities



Conclusion

In online gaming communities, learning involves: “Wide, keen attention and contribution” (Rogoff et. al., 2015).

- Collaborative engagement as teams work in ensembles to accomplish tasks.
- Within this framework, expertise is distributed (Engestrom, 2001)

Observations

→ Raul collaborates in shared endeavors with others online in order to complete tasks, missions, and learn about hidden secrets within the video game.

→ Raul learns to play video games by watching his uncle and older brother play. As such, video gaming is a type of play that is an integral part of the way the men in his family socialize.

→ Raul observes other players’ gameplay through YouTube videos in order to develop his expertise.

Significance to LOPI

A central feature of LOPI is a community’s inclusivity of children (Rogoff et. al., 2017) and we conclude that online video gaming communities are structured in ways that allow children to co-construct gaming experiences with adults as they cooperate through blogs, YouTube videos, and the gameplay itself. Our analyses seek to expand the possibilities of seeing LOPI happen in online communities. The findings reveal that video games mediate LOPI for children in online gaming communities and expand children’s repertoires of practice as they collaborate with adults across digital platforms.