

## United Kingdom – University Campuses.



**Bedford**

**Luton**



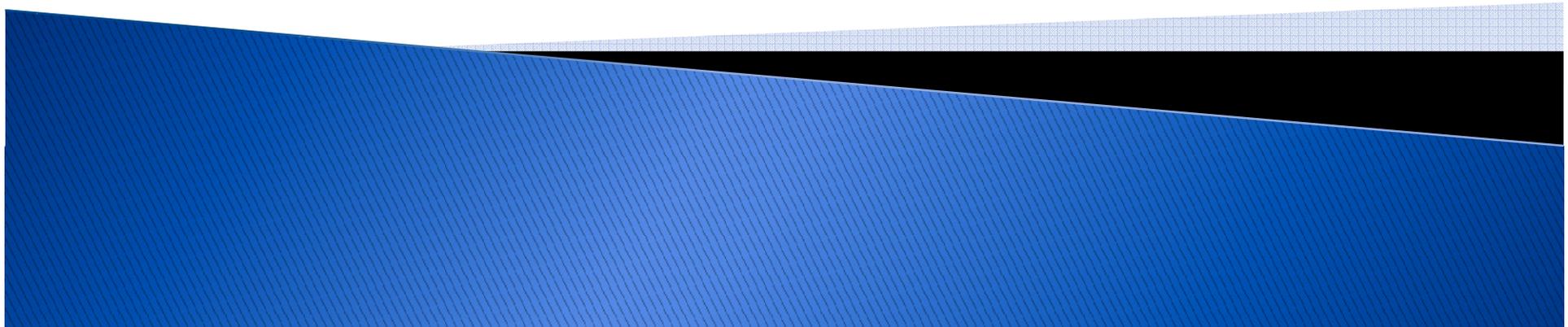
The main  
University Campus  
Park Square

# UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE



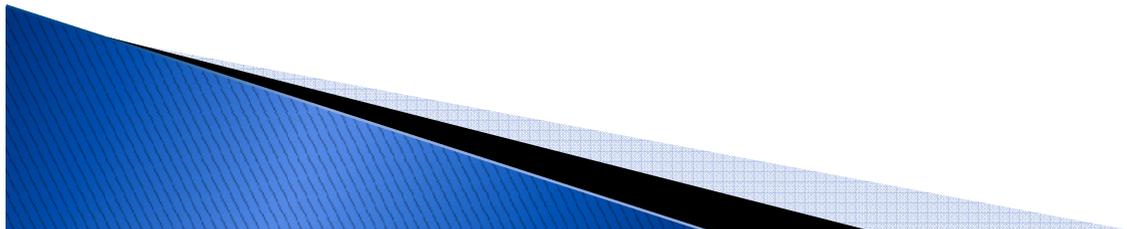
# Ethical Issues in Problem Based Learning

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E-Leader Berlin, June 2012



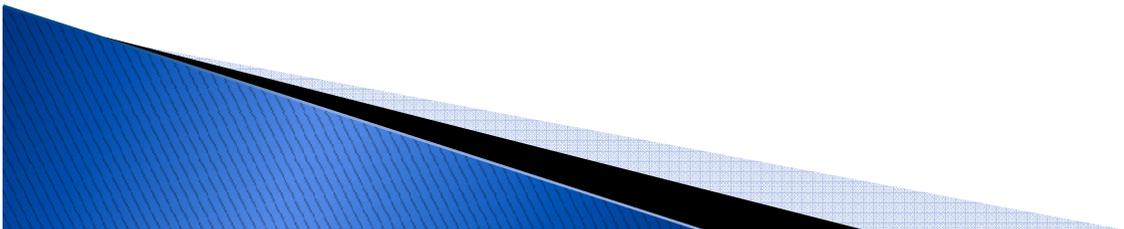
# Public Health Masters

- ▶ 2 intakes October and February.
- ▶ 120 students in the group, 30 completing by distance learning.
- ▶ 2/3 Overseas students.
- ▶ We use Blackboard as our framework.



# Pedagogical considerations

- ▶ Connectivism: students actively create and integrate this new knowledge with their existing knowledge.
- ▶ Views learning as dependent on the development of connections and networks of knowledge and information.

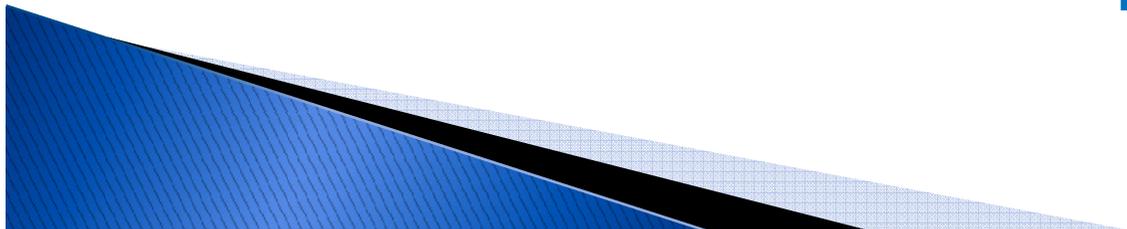


# Downes (2011)

2 key principles of Connectivism need to be realised:

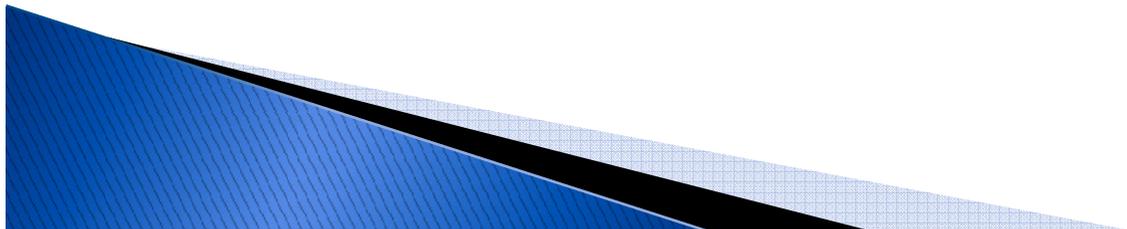
- ▶ (a) learning and knowledge rests in the diversity of opinions
- ▶ (b) learning consists of the ability to construct and traverse those networks

Given these principles, a large, integrative, and collaborative group would appear to offer an almost natural fit with the connectivist pedagogy.



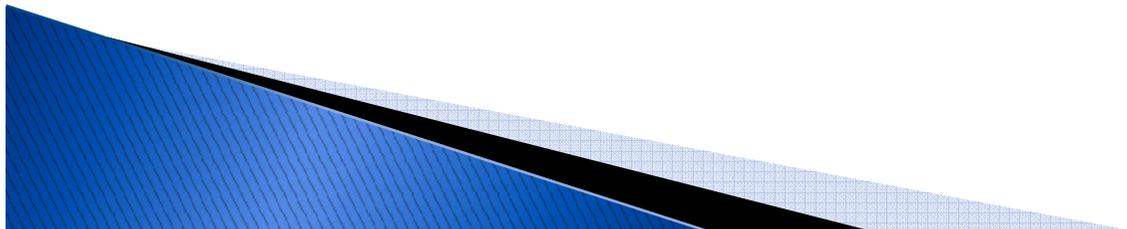
# Social Constructivist

- ▶ Social constructivist: the emphasis should be placed on helping students to critically amalgamate new knowledge against their own social and cultural contexts, experiences and ideas.
- ▶ Engage staff to make higher education transformative



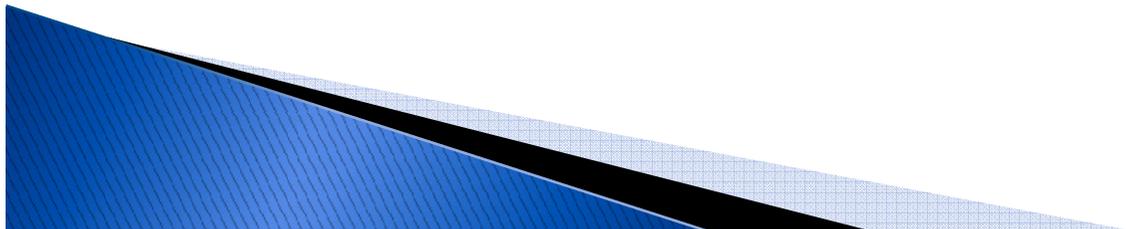
# Using Student Encounter

- ▶ Students can reconcile new learning with their previous ideas and experience, and in the process either change what they understand or discard the new information as irrelevant.
- ▶ The learning process is an active, mental process rather than a passive reception of teaching.



# Ethical Theories

- ▶ **Deontology or Formalism**
- ▶ **Teleology or Utilitarianism**
- ▶ **Egoism**



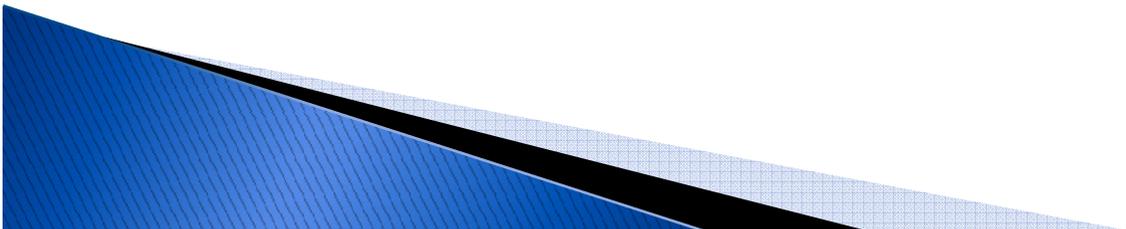
# Problems

- ▶ **Deontology or Formalism** – is right is absolute, what about the consequences?
- ▶ **Teleology or Utilitarian** - The problem - this supposes that everybody has an equally understanding of what is happiness. What happens if corruption is the ruler?
- ▶ **Egoism** - Jonestown or Waco Massacre. Where would you place Hitler and Mother Theresa?



# Three Strands

- ▶ Cognitive relativism – knowledge
- ▶ Moral/ethical relativism – social groups
- ▶ Situational relativism - situation



# To summarise - Ethical Theories

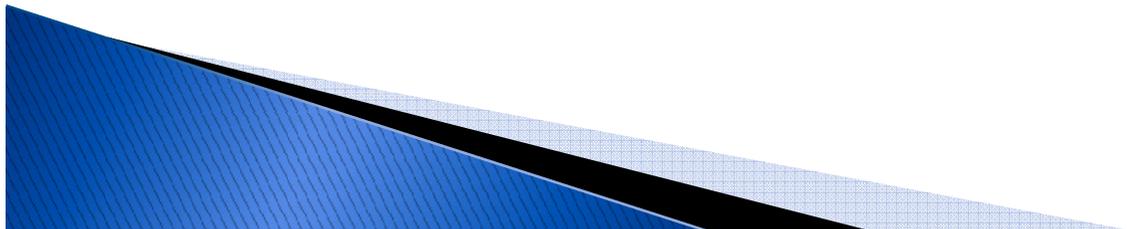
These theories express the universal moral duties which for many people are embodied in a religious or ethical code of valuing other human beings (and in some cases all life) and treating them as you yourself would wish to be treated by others ('do as you would be done by')

(Holland 2007)



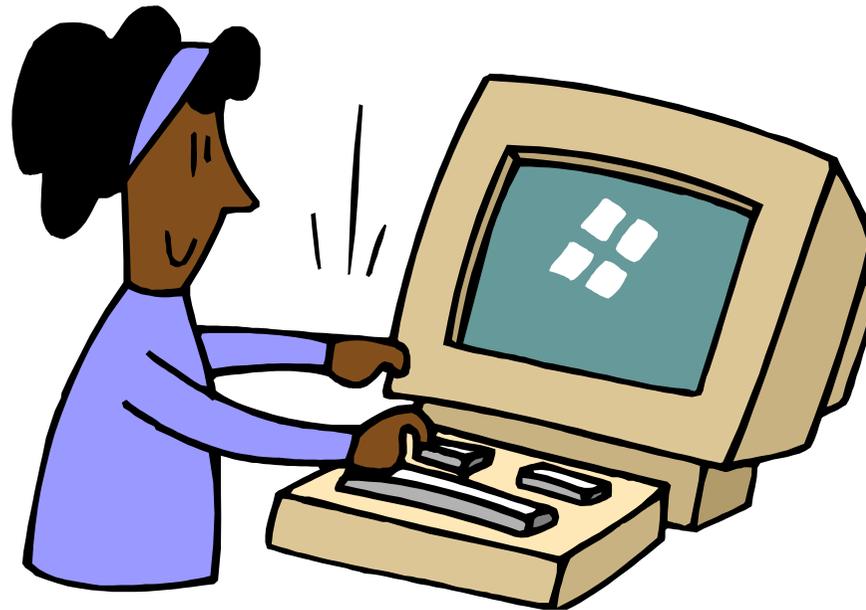
# Thiroux 1980 Principles of Ethics

- ▶ The Principle of the Value of Life
- ▶ The Principle of Goodness or Rightness
- ▶ The Principle of Justice or Fairness
- ▶ The Principle of Truth Telling or Honesty
- ▶ The Principle of Individual Freedom



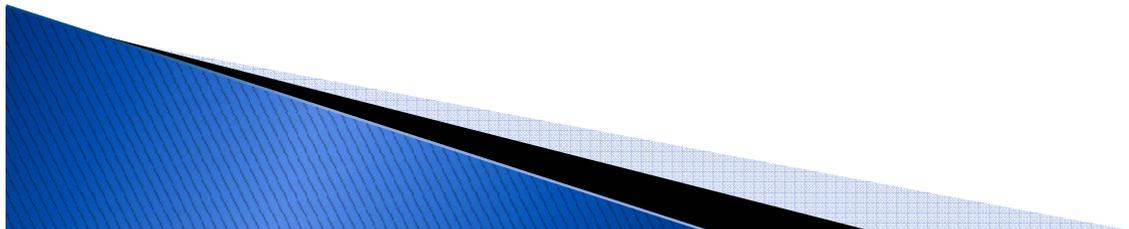
# Assessment

1. Describe a situation in a seminar.
2. Write a report suggesting how this situation could have been managed more successfully next time.



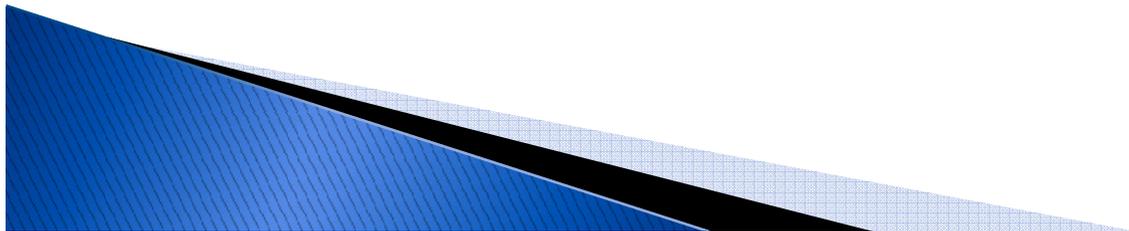
# Examples

- ▶ Barometric Surgery
- ▶ Over Weight
- ▶ Force Feeding
- ▶ Life of girls/women in rural North Pakistan.
- ▶ Plastic Surgery
- ▶ Breast Ironing
- ▶ Iraman burnt arm, 18/12
- ▶ Surrogacy in India
- ▶ Polygamy



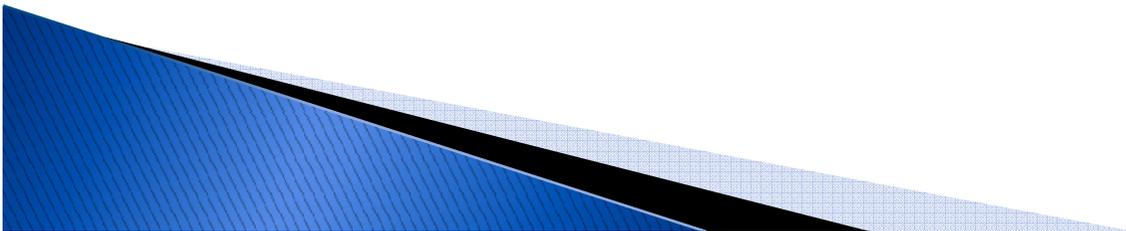
# Moving Forward

Re-appraising their own thoughts and beliefs.



# Learning

The group develop an acute awareness  
of cultural pressures.



# Can the students see benefits



# Conclusion

- ▶ Do we unsettle students?
- ▶ Debriefing and Feedback is offered.
- ▶ How will they cope on return to their Country and community.

