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# Crynoldebau / abstracts

#OutInTheField: The Use of Twitter in Revitalizing Human Geography Methods Training

Greg Thomas & Will Andrews

There has been an undeniable rise in the popularity of social media in recent years and in particular the rise to prominence of Twitter as more than a social tool. This paper discusses the use of Twitter in a second year undergraduate Human Geography methods class; to actively engage students, provide new learning experiences and to afford independent self-led learning. During a practical workshop on participant observation students were asked to go out into the field and tweet their observations, thoughts and feelings using the hashtag #AUHGMethods. Throughout the task the hashtag was monitored by the instructors allowing immediate feedback and a live student-led learning process whilst in the field. When students returned to the room at the end of the session they were able to see their tweets and photographs displayed on the whiteboard through the Tweetbeam program, stimulating discussions based on elaboration of field observations. As a result of the students observing their previous Tweets, a more confident and vibrant discussion emerged than was seen in previous classes. It is argued that Twitter and other similar social networking tools can be used throughout geography education to allow for a more stimulating, co-produced learning experience with students taking responsibility for their own learning.