

Ranellucci, J., Poitras, E., Bouchet, F., Lajoie, S. P., & Azevedo, R. (2012, May). Using social networking to guide research on emotions in education.

PURPOSE:

- Research on emotions in education has exploded in the past 15 years.
- Emotions relate to important variables, such as student motivation, academic achievement, and cognitive engagement. (Pekrun et al. 2009; Daniels et al., 2009; Linnenbrink-Garcia, 2007)
- Emotions are integrated into a number of theoretical models, for example Pekrun's (2006) Control-Value Theory and Gregoire's (2003) Cognitive-Affective Model of Conceptual Change.
- Regrettably, researchers have noted a discrepancy between the emotions being studied, and the emotions that are actually experienced in relation to education (Pekrun et al., 2002)
- What emotions are being reported in relation to education?
- How consistent are these emotions over time?
- What emotions is the educational research community neglecting?

METHOD:

- We collected publicly available short messages from an online social networking service called Twitter
- The messages (or Tweets) are up to 140 characters, and we only collected Tweets related to education (which are user categorized with hashtags, for example #education).
- From February 1, 2012 – March 15, 2012 a total of 192813 Tweets related to #education were collected, of which 15572 mention emotions.
- We developed a library of emotion terms based on Pekrun et al.'s (2002) work on achievement emotions and corresponding thesaurus terms. We incorporated this library into a program that searched tweets for relevant emotions that people reported in their Tweets.
- We conducted a keywords (all fields) search of ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) as a measure of what emotions the educational research community is investigating over the past 10 years (from 2002-2012).

RESULTS and DISCUSSION:

- The most common emotions reported in Tweets with the hashtag 'education' is anger, enjoyment, hope, and boredom (see figures 1, 2, and 3)
- The types of emotions reported in Tweets are relatively stable (see figure 1, 2, and 3)
- The most common emotions reported in an ERIC keywords search are anxiety, hope, anger, and enjoyment (see figure 4)
- Clearly the emotions that are being reported in relation to education on Twitter do not match the emotions that are being studied.

LIMITATIONS:

- The library has not yet been validated.
- The timeframe is short - we are continuing to collect Tweets for at least 1 year.
- The demographics of our sample is unknown – but social desirability is non-existent.

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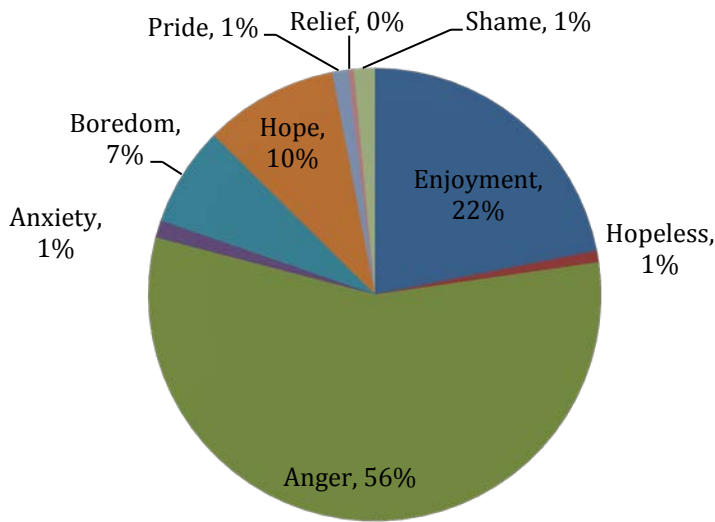


Figure 1. Emotions reported in #Education Tweets from February 1 to February 15, 2012

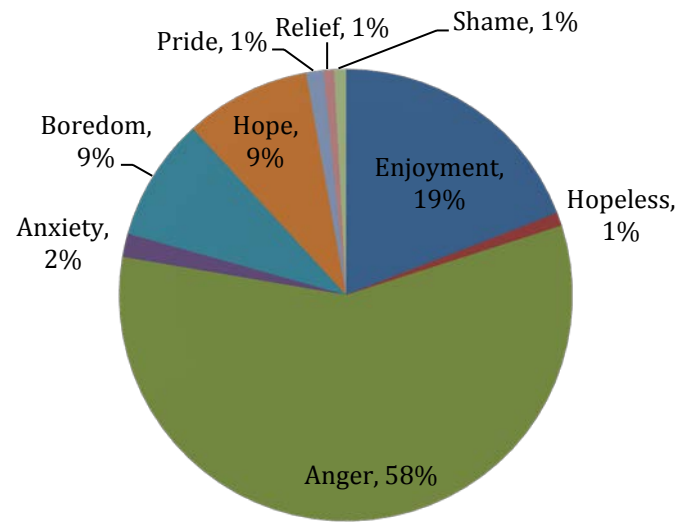


Figure 3. Emotions reported in #Education Tweets from March 1 to March 15, 2012

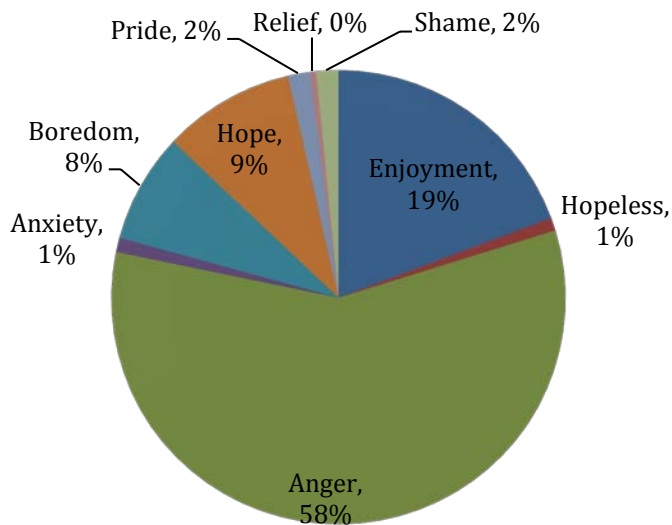


Figure 2. Emotions reported in #Education Tweets from February 15 to March 1, 2012

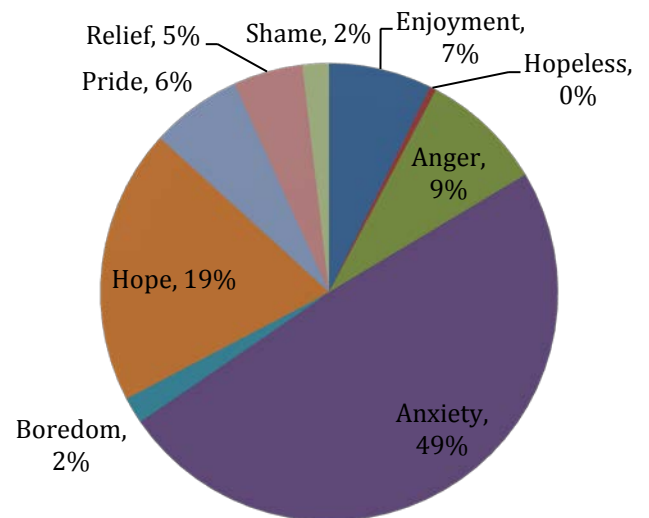


Figure 4. Emotions reported in ERIC from 2002-2012

SAMPLE TWEETS:

"That lecture was **boring** #Design #education #Exhausted"

"We're watching a movie about the presidents. It's kinda **boring** but kinda interesting at the same time. #conflicted #education #student"

"Goin back to school to do the 2nd thing I'm best at other than rap. Cutting hair. I start April 3rd. I'm so **proud** of myself. #education"