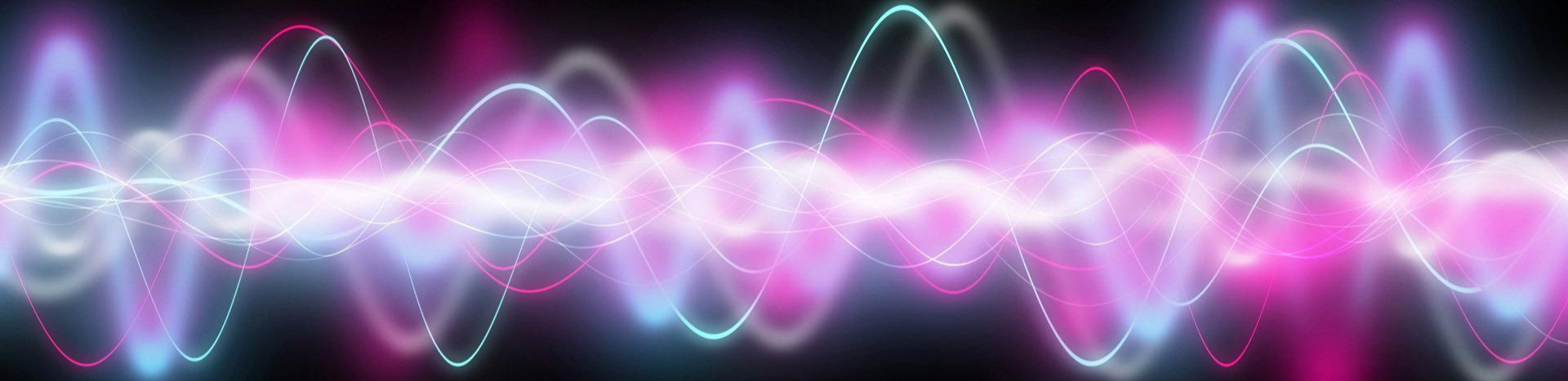


# META TUNING



Game Design-based Learning  
for a Generative STEM Education



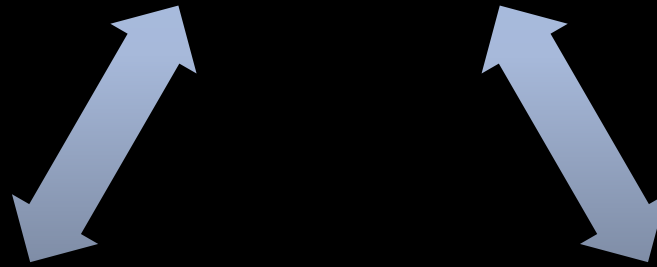
# Today's Goals

*Metatuning aims to create and mobilize discovery learning through game design activities that educate students through STEM concepts in a generative manner, where the knowledge-construction activities are valuable to the students and their social spaces.*

- Why Metatuning?
- Metatuning as Framework
- Tes' Case Study
- Q and A

# Reimagining Game-based Learning

Critical Pedagogy:  
Digital Literacy  
Critical Literacy

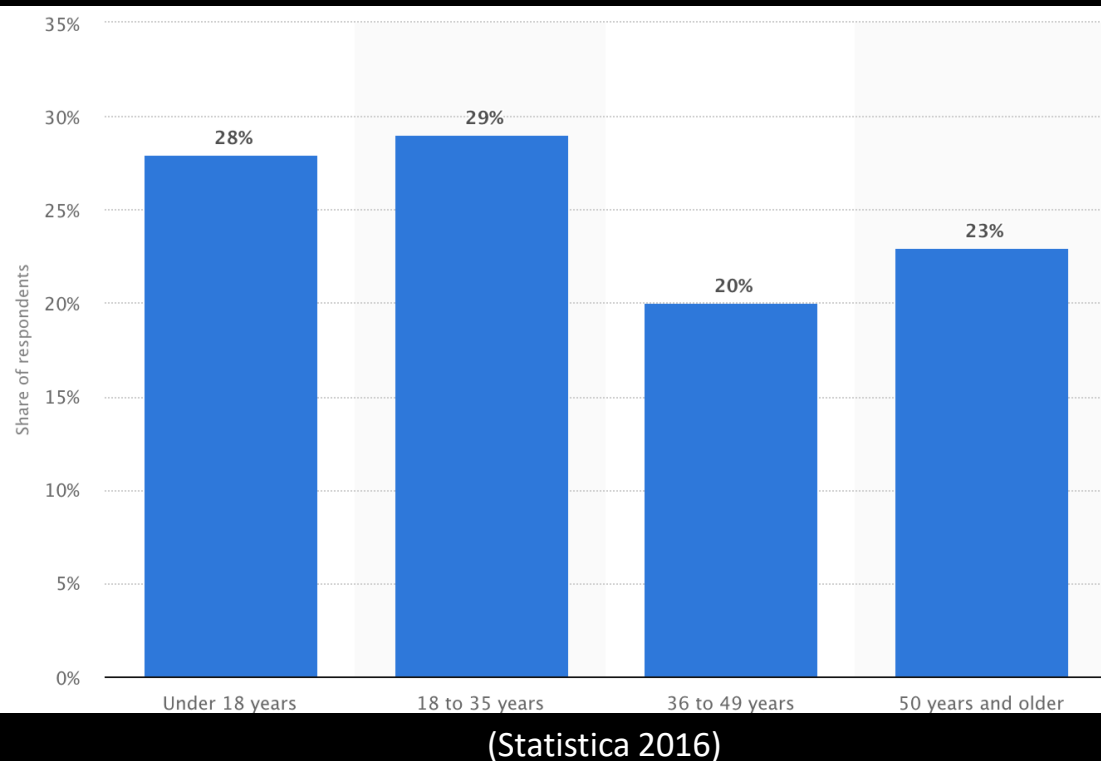


Digital Rhetoric:  
Procedural Rhetoric  
Media and Memory



Game Design Research:  
Participatory Design  
Constitutive Design

DEEP!



DEEPER!

***African American youth between the ages of 8 and 18 play games 30 minutes more per day than white youth, while Hispanics play an average of 10 minutes more (Kaiser Foundation 2010)***

**TABLE 27: Time Spent Playing Video Games, 8- to 18-Year-Olds**

Among 8- to 18-year-olds, average amount of time spent playing video games on each platform in a typical day

	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Asian</b>
Console player	:32 <sup>a</sup>	:32 <sup>a</sup>	:45 <sup>b</sup>	:38 <sup>ab</sup>
Cell phone	:09 <sup>a</sup>	:29 <sup>b</sup>	:24 <sup>b</sup>	:28 <sup>ab</sup>
Handheld player	:15 <sup>a</sup>	:24 <sup>b</sup>	:27 <sup>b</sup>	:32 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Total video games</b>	:56 <sup>a</sup>	1:25 <sup>b</sup>	1:35 <sup>b</sup>	1:37 <sup>ab</sup>

(Center on Media and Human Development School of Communication Northwestern University 2011)



34 years old

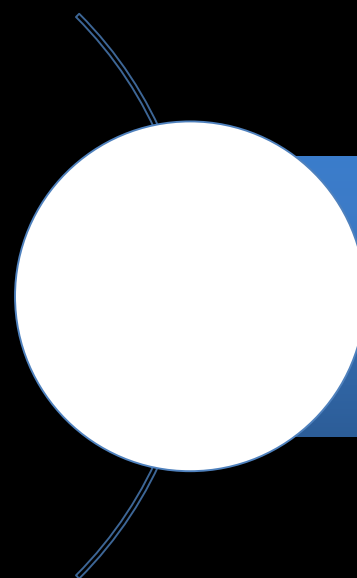
85% white

74% Male

83% Heterosexual

70% No Children

69% Degree



3% African American

Is Diversity in Game  
Dev Important?



YES!



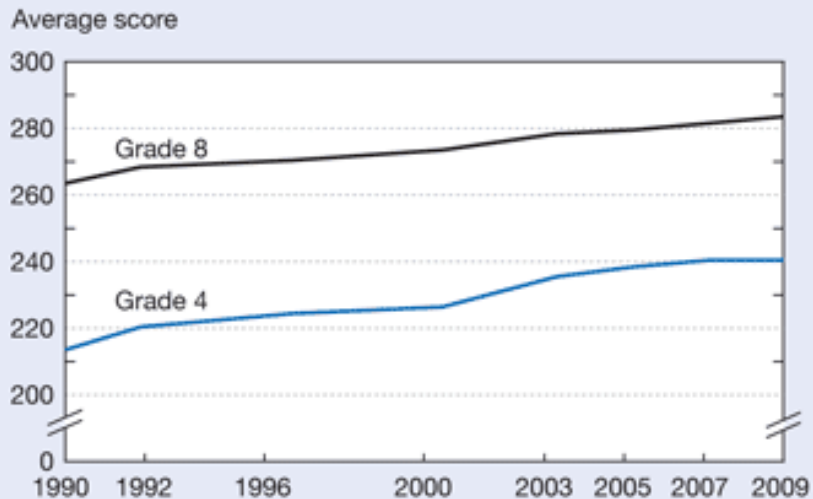


...and YES!



# More incongruities

Figure 1-1  
Average NAEP mathematics scores of students in grades 4 and 8: Selected years, 1990–2009



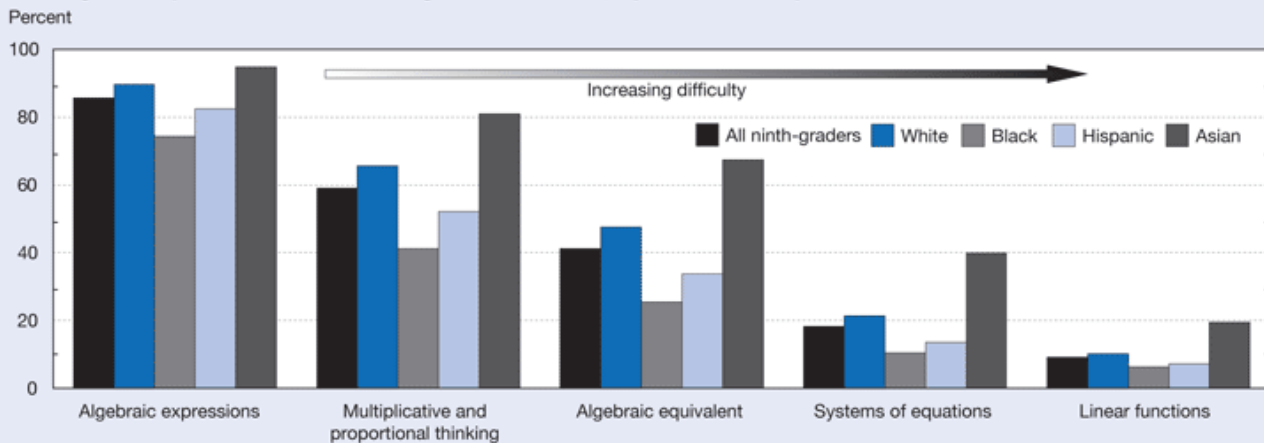
NAEP = National Assessment of Educational Progress

NOTES: NAEP mathematics assessment scores range from 0 to 500 for 1996 on, data shown are for students allowed to

tations.  
ience Foundation, National Center for Science and special tabulations (2010) of NAEP 1990, 1992, 5, 2007, and 2009 mathematics assessments, Education Statistics. See appendix table 1-1.

*Science and Engineering Indicators 2012*

Figure 1-3  
Ninth-graders proficient in various algebra skill areas, by race/ethnicity: 2009



NOTES: Skill areas are arranged in a hierarchy such that proficiency in a given area assumes proficiency in all lower areas. "All ninth-graders" bars also include students in other racial/ethnic categories that are not shown separately.

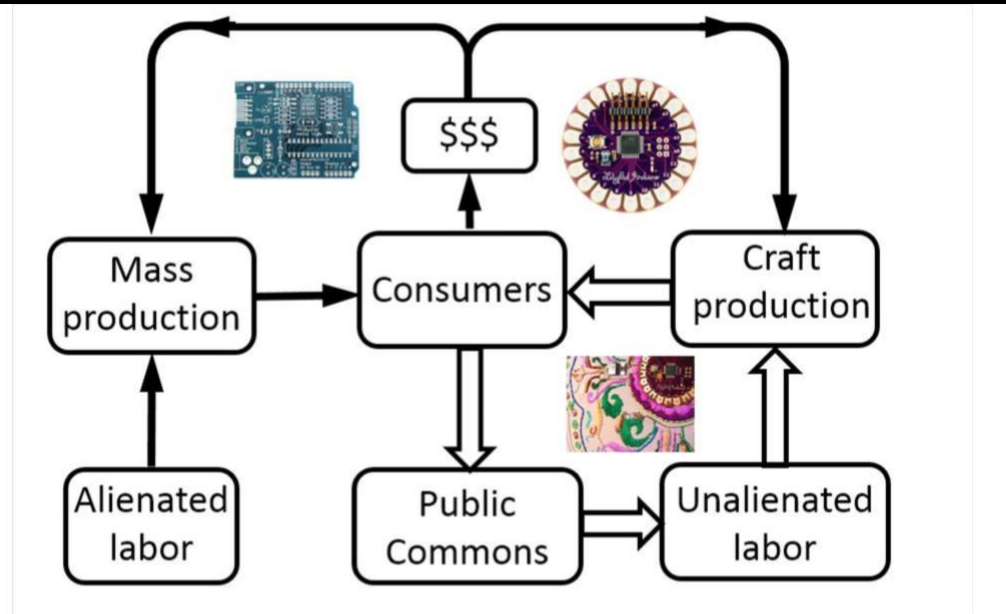
SOURCE: Ingels SJ, Dalton B, Holder TE, Lauff E, Burns, LJ, *High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSL:09): A First Look at Fall 2009 Ninth-Graders*, NCES 2011-327 (2011). See appendix table 1-5.

# Longterm Inquiry

1. How can we get the games industry (driven by profit) and the needs of low-income and underrepresented youth (driven by principles of social equities) to thrive together?
2. How can we develop a *generative justice* framework to facilitate this hopeful synergism?

# Generative Justice

- The universal right to generate unalienated value and directly participate in its benefits
- the rights of value generators to create their own conditions of production
- and the rights of communities of value generation to nurture self-sustaining paths for its circulation. (Eglash 2016)



Sources: Upper left, an Arduino printed circuit board mass-produced in China by Gold Phoenix; Upper right, a circular LilyPad Arduino from artisanal production in the US by SparkFun; Lower left, a LilyPad electronic textile handmade by Becky Stern.

# From Tuning to *Meta-tuning*

TUNING



METATUNING



Intertwining of the **Social**,  
**Material**, **Conceptual**

The Mangle of Practice is a “goal-oriented and goal-revising dialectic of resistance and accommodation [hence trial-and-error,] where the overall practice encompasses the dialectic.” (Andrew Pickering, 1995)

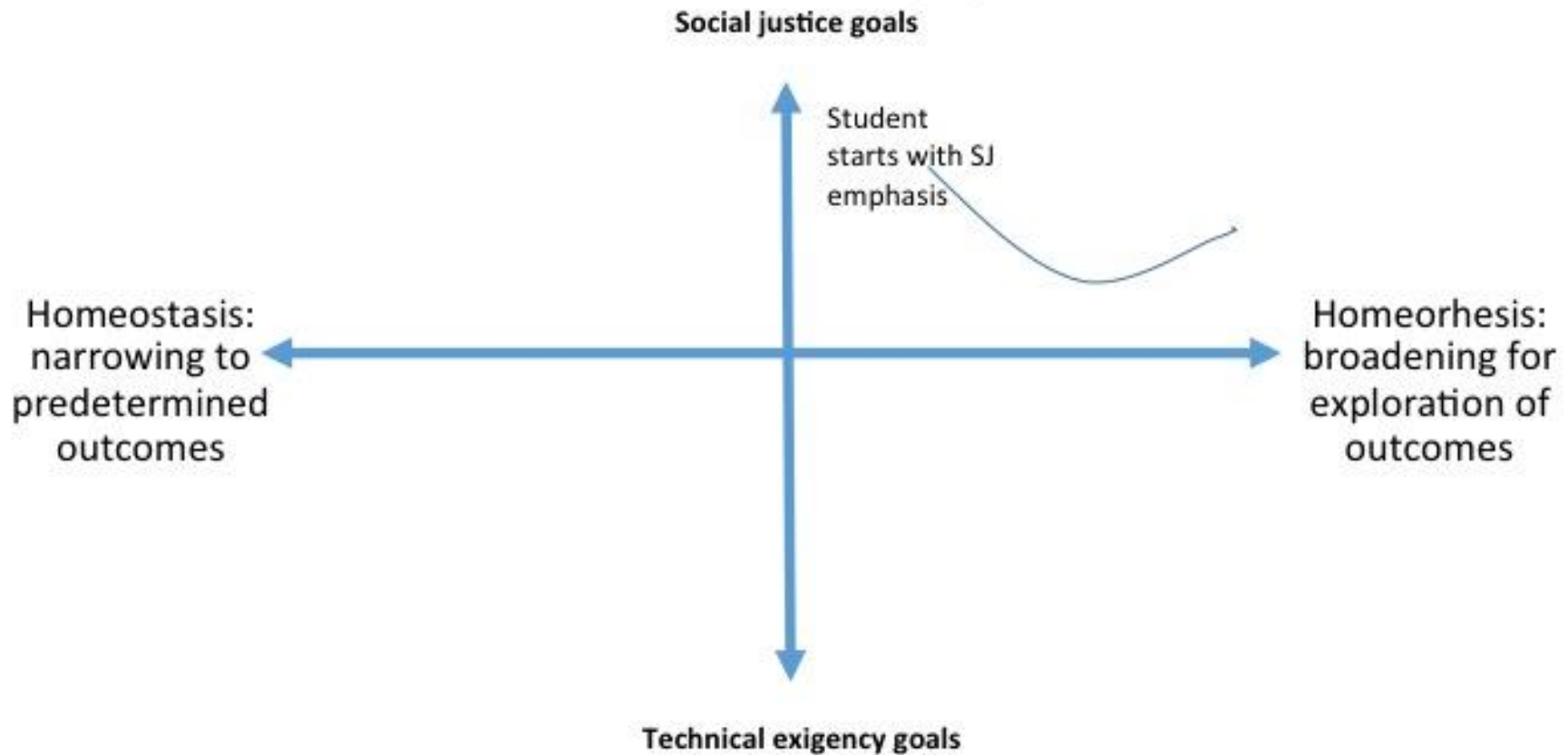
# Game Design-Based Learning



- Iteration
- Systems based Thinking
- Collaboration
- Intercultural Thinking

# Finding the Sweet Spot: Underrepresented Youth As Game Designers!

## A Metatuning plane





# My Goal...

Create a generative  
game-based Ed for  
complex-dynamic  
(perceived as  
homogenous but  
heterogeneous)  
underrepresented  
groups where...

- Social and cultural value circulated
- Transformative knowledge

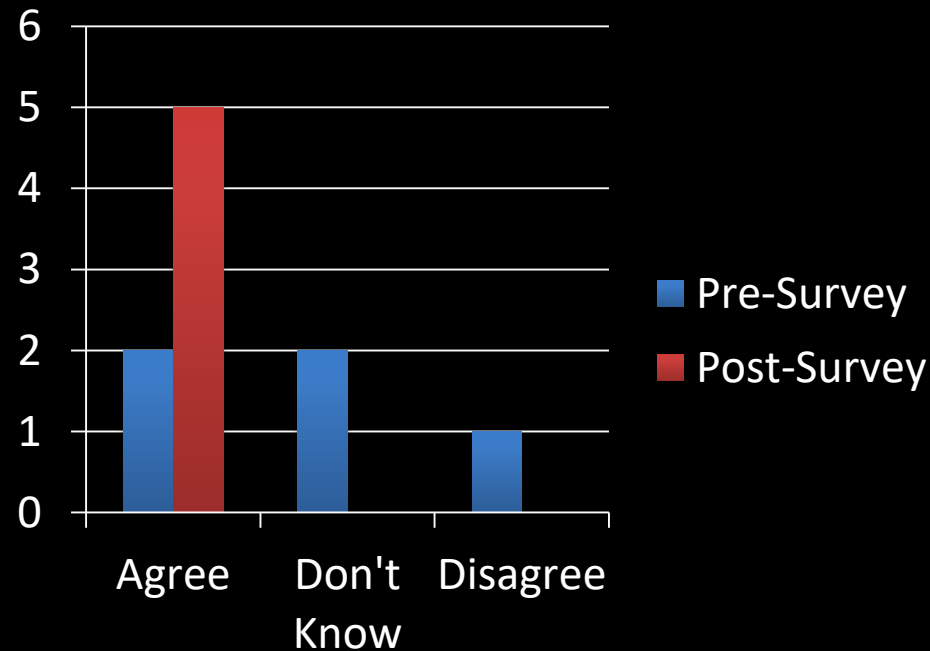
# Uniquely Metatuned Sites

## Seeing and Coding the World:

- Subjects: 5 Females/1 Male
- Location: RPI
- Technology: Academic
- Goals: Dr. Betty Shabazz

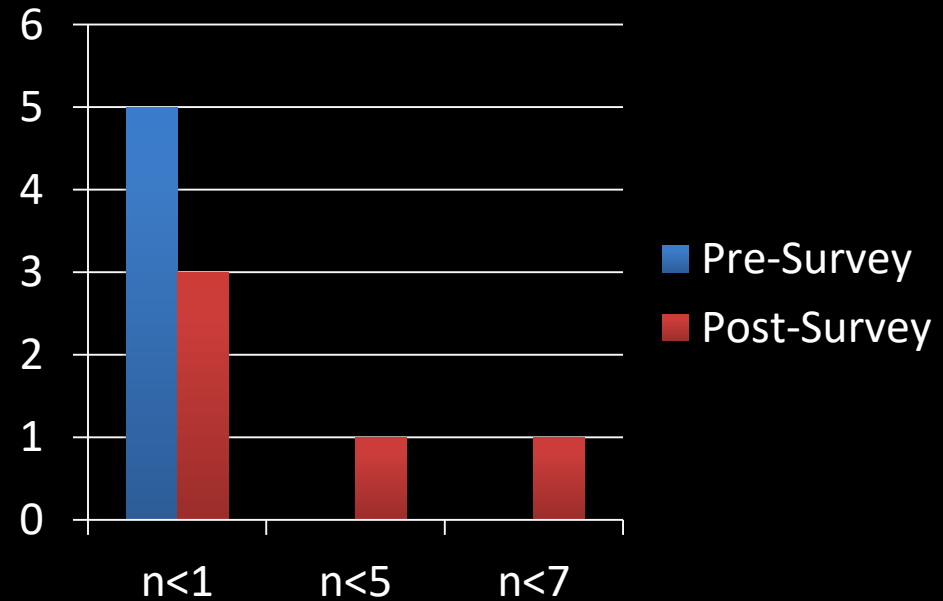
**TABLE 1**

**QUESTION #16 "GAME DESIGN CAN TEACH ABOUT HOW SYSTEMS WORK"**



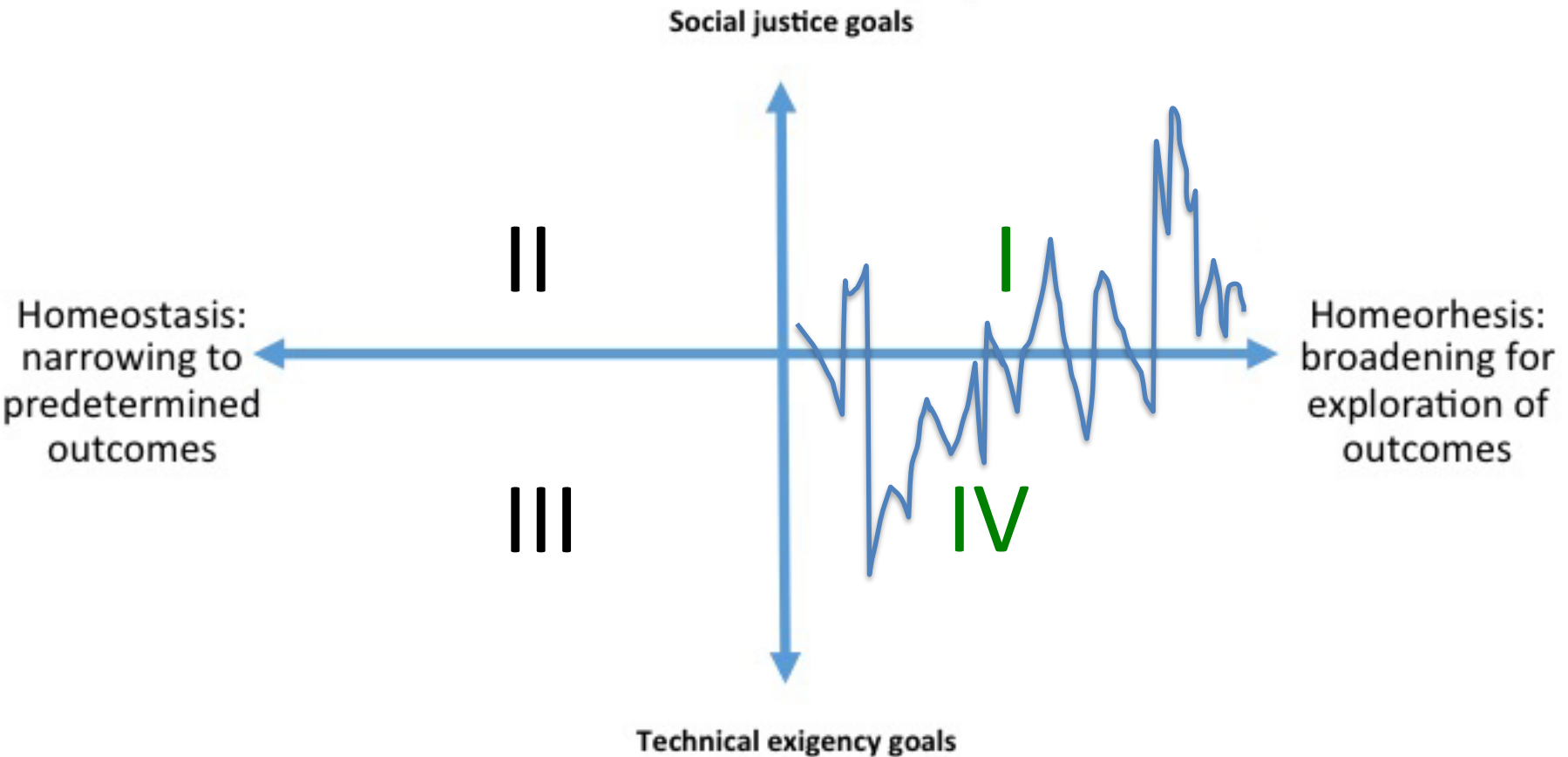
**TABLE 2**

**SYSTEMS BASED THINKING DEFINITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM**



# Tes'

## A Metatuning plane



# Game Overview Sheet:

(Create this in .doc format PLEASE)  
 "Asteroid Miner"

Promo Blurb:

All work Copyright ©2013 by Names

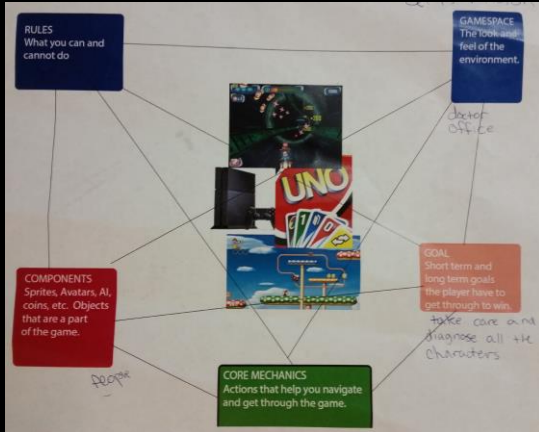
## Game Philosophy

The WHY FACTOR: Why would someone want to play it? Who is your audience? Someone would want to play this game to know how to do ~~the~~ take care of ~~these~~ children. This game teaches: How to care and have sympathy for others.

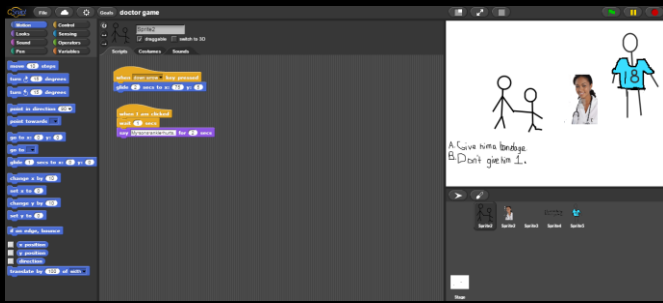
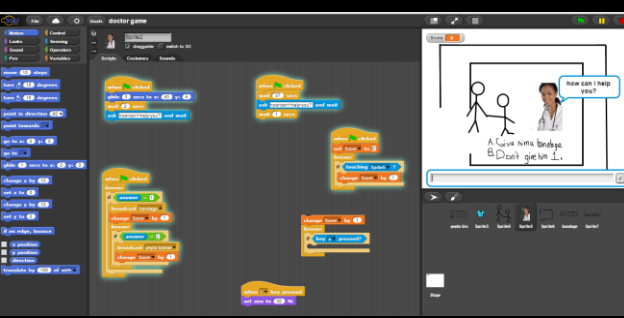
This game will impact people

My target audience  
 Children

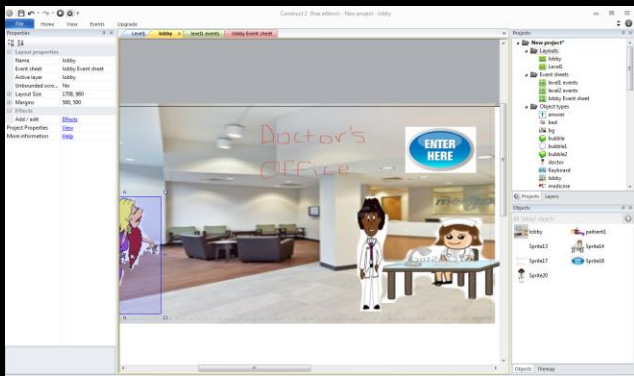
*Wendy*



Dr " How do you feel  
 " far " My stomach hurt"  
 D " Lets try this (next Act)  
*Wendy*  
 Good choice  
 Obam care  
 pay for this  
 I can't  
 pay for  
 special  
 visit  
 pay



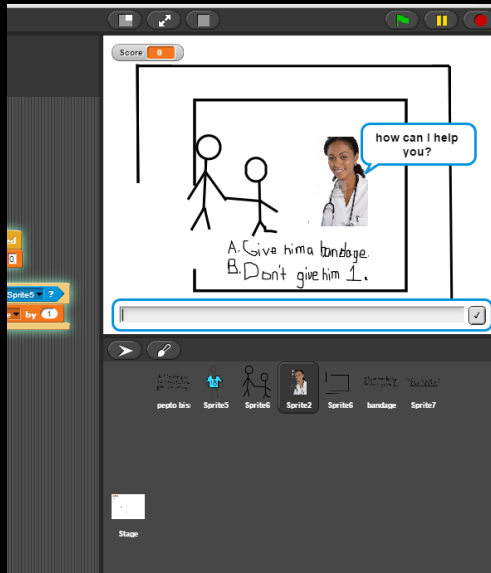
lobby story  
 receptionist in lobby  
 poor person first  
 poor person  
 black person  
 spanish person  
 rich person  
 rich person cuts in front  
 level 1 - poor person



# Metatuning Quadrant I: Social Values and *Identity*



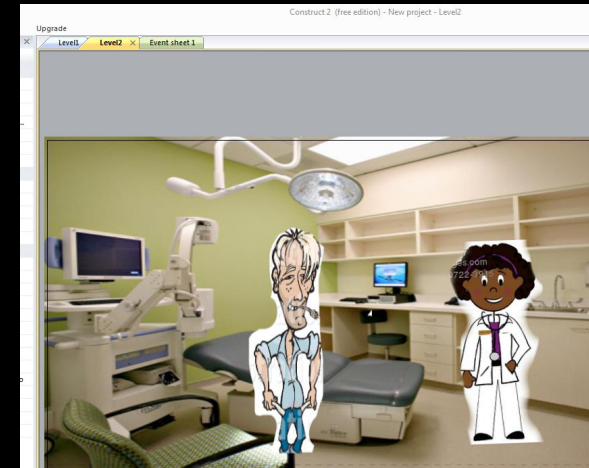
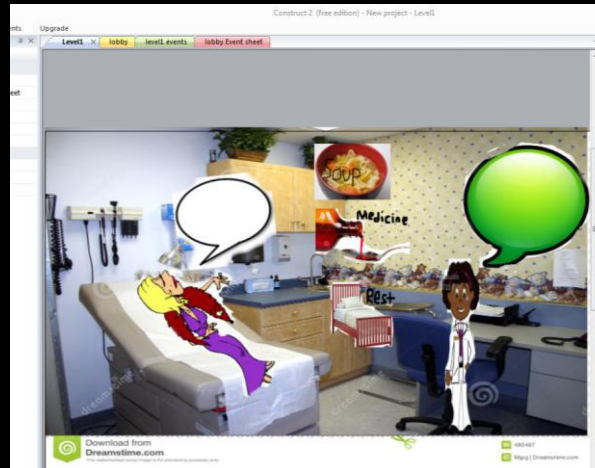
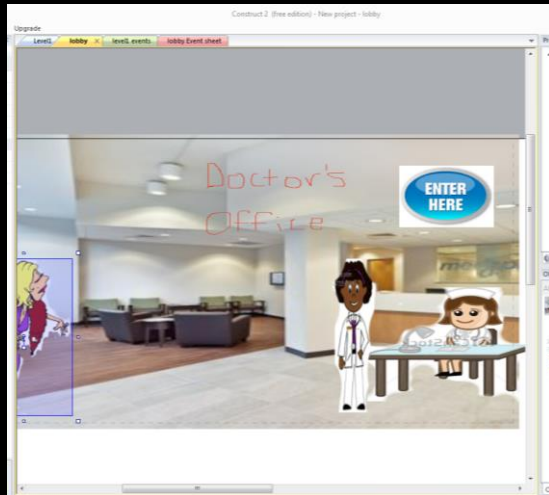
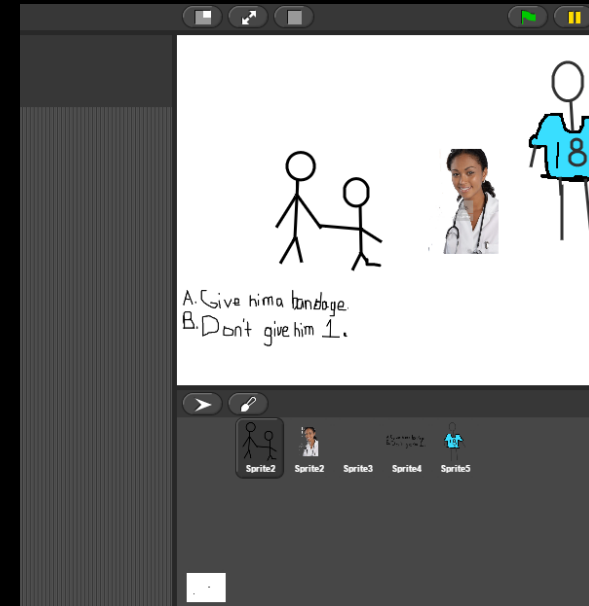
# Metatuning Quadrant I and IV: Level Design & Social Justice



lobby story  
receptionist in lobby  
poor person first

poor person  
black person  
spanish person  
rich person

rich person cuts in front  
level 1 - poor person



# Metatuning Quadrant IV: Procedural Literacy

Sprite2

draggable  switch to 3D

Scripts Costumes Sounds

when clicked

set size to 30 %

when up arrow key pressed

glide 2 secs to x: 54 y: 0

when I am clicked

ask How can I help you? and wait

broadcast bandage and wait

Goals doctor game\_LCfix

Sprite2

draggable  switch to 3D

Scripts Costumes Sounds

when clicked

set Score to 0

glide 3 secs to x: 43 y: 4

wait 2 secs

ask how can I help you? and wait

if answer = 1

broadcast bandage

change Score by 1

change Score by -1

stop this script

when I receive bandage

wait 10 secs

broadcast pepto bismal

ask how can I help you? and wait

if answer = 1

change Score by 1

change Score by -1

when clicked

set Score to 0

forever

if touching Sprite5?

change Score by 1

when clicked

wait 1 secs

if

forever

when clicked

if

change Score by 1

forever

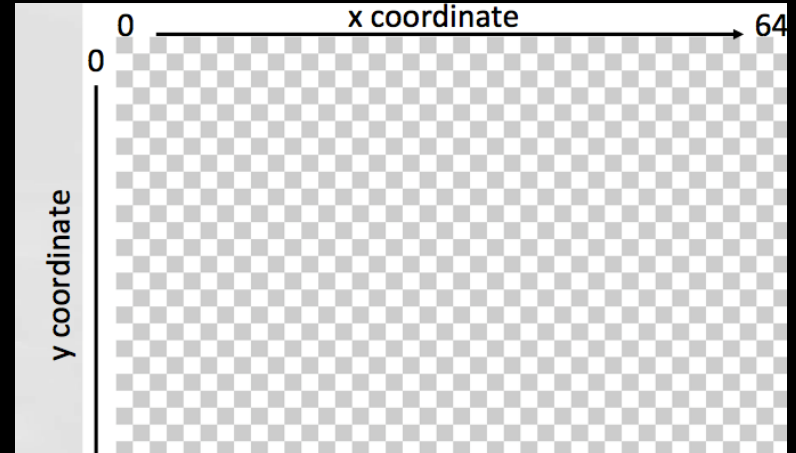
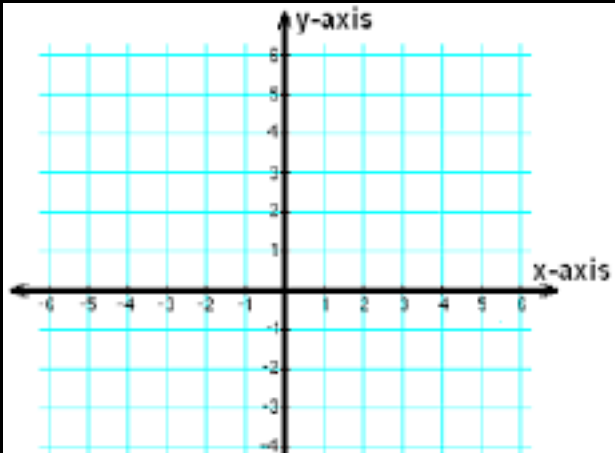
if key a pressed?

when key pressed

set size to 30 %



# Metatuning Quadrant IV: Procedural Literacy (Animation)



Jpgrade

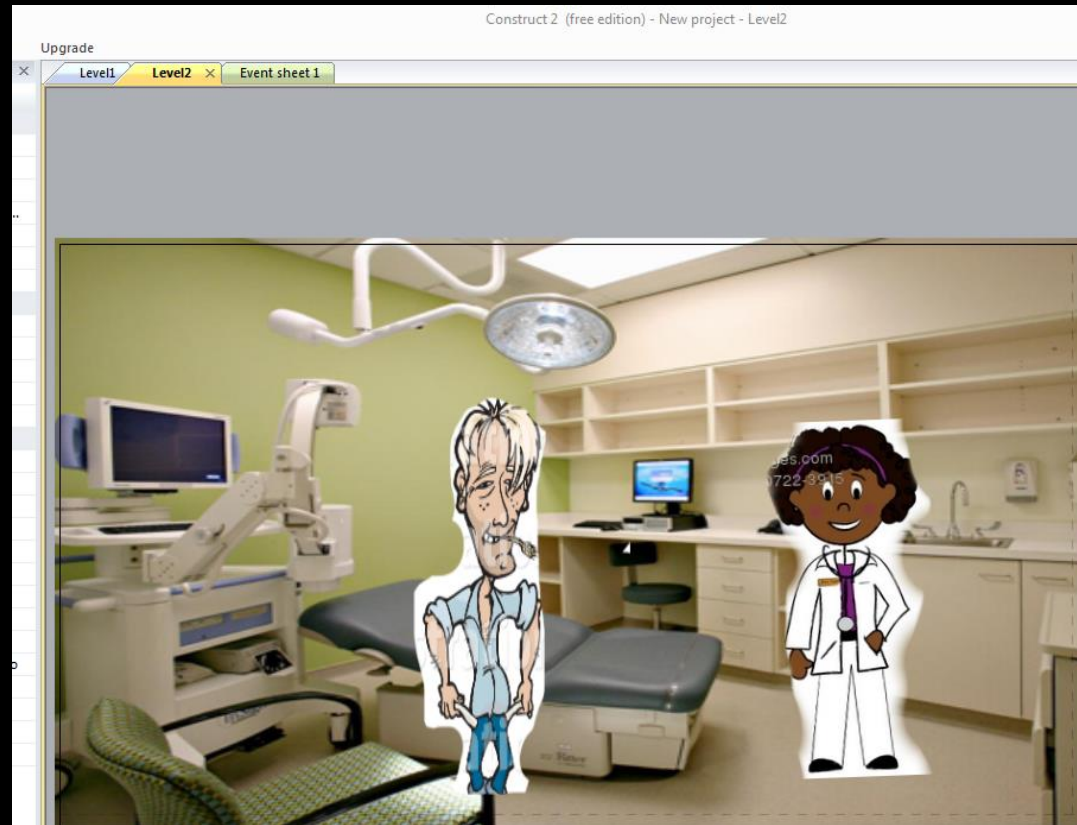
Level1 lobby level1 events lobby Event sheet x

1	Sprite14	Is visible	Text	Set text to "How are you?"
			Add action	
2	System	On start of layout	patient1	Set Bullet speed to 100
			patient1	Set Bullet angle of motion to 0 degrees
			Add action	
3	patient1	X > 470	patient1	Set Bullet speed to 0
			Add action	
4	patient1	X < 470	patient1	Set Bullet speed to 100
			Add action	
5	patient1	X > 470	Text	Set text to "Can I see a doctor?"
			Add action	
6	Mouse	On Left button Clicked on Sprite18	System	Go to Level1
			Add action	
7				

(Credit) Marc D.

# Main Implications of Metatuning

Tes' personal (aspirations) and social (empathy) values—hence, the “sweet spots” of discovery learning—adaptively moved through iterative design processes, yielding a social-justice themed game about the injustices of health care. **Metatuning** Tes' tuning processes (documentation writing, game deconstruction activities, researching, debugging).



# Metatuning Social Justice Through (Cultural) Systems Based Thinking:

**Tes:** Justice, ummm...equality, that's about it.

**ME:** Yea, that's good. So tell me how social values or issues inspire your game design for your game?

**Tes:** Well...I... uhh... put what I wanted to do when I grow up into a game...cuz I wanna be a Dr.

**ME:** Right...what were some values you put into your game when we switched to your Construct 2?

**Tes:** Equality.

**ME:** Alright. OK. And was it difficult to translate values like "equality" into your game?

**Tes:** Umm no like when you thought about it a little, then it becomes easier?

**ME:** And did it in a good way or bad way help change your creative direction in how you wanted to create your game?

**Tes:** In a good way.

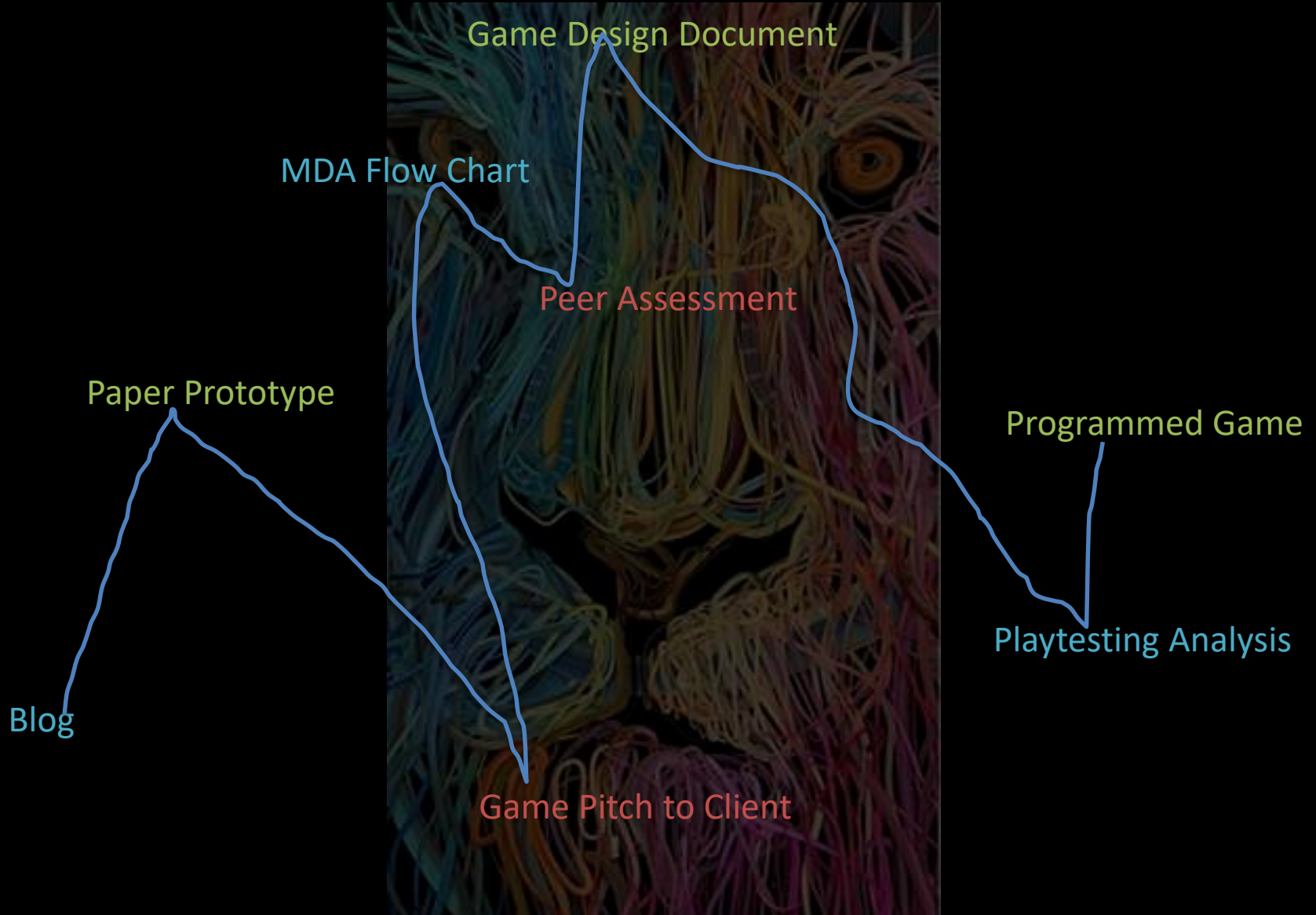
**ME:** OK. How so?

**LN 24 Tes:** HmMMM. It made me think about like the real world...about like... ummm, how people really react in society.

Thank You

Questions and Answers?

# Metatuning Game Design *Writing* Genres



# Future Research of Transdisciplinary Research and Pedagogy

P-12  
Higher Ed  
Community

