

# CONNECTED LEARNING ECOLOGIES AS AN EMERGING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH COSPLAY

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## INTRODUCTION



**Connected learning,** form of learning related to the interests of young people and their relationships with others connecting with future opportunities.



**Cosplay,** creative participatory culture that celebrates media products, copies and reinterprets them with costumes that allow fans to literally become characters.



**Learning trajectories,** studying them helps to better understand how lifelong learning works and how to design connected learning environments that serve all young people.

## METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

What kind of learning paths are there in cosplay?  
How do they connect with future opportunities?  
How can these mechanisms and learning environments work better for those who don't find connections between extracurricular interests and a professional future?

Investigate two case studies of cosplayers who benefited from well-developed connected learning environments to find the design principles.

The main author = ethnographer in community cosplay



Semistructured interview  
Microsoft Excel  
2 men - 8 women  
21 - 33 years old  
Americans in USA



Themes:  
Caring for others, learning disconnected, start out big Opportunities

To create connected learning environments accessible to all young people, we must:

- 1) Legitimize the interests of the student.
- 2) Support their relationship with peers.
- 3) Act as sponsors by providing access to skills and resources
- 4) Support young people's goals, no matter how difficult they may seem.
- 5) Recognize opportunities within and outside the professional environment.
- 6) Apply learning in school to contexts that interest students.



## CONCLUSIONS



Cosplay as learning that is socially connected and fits well into a connected learning framework that maximizes its effect at the intersection of three spheres: relationships, interests and opportunity.



One way schools have been integrating self-directed learning into their programs is by making creative spaces available to students.



The importance of taking into account the interests of students in order to develop lifelong learning that allows young people to aspire to a rewarding future.

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