



The role of educational technology in fostering student engagement

Researching Student Engagement: Impulses for Higher Education
Zurich University of Teacher Education, ZHE Webinar series
22 June 2021

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 @misc_nerd

Webinar schedule

1. Presenter background
2. How did I approach my SE conceptual framework?
3. Systematic review methodology
 - > Benefits and challenges
4. Bioecological student engagement framework
5. Technology and student engagement
6. Flipped learning
 - > Research pre- and during COVID-19 pandemic
7. Implications for practice and research

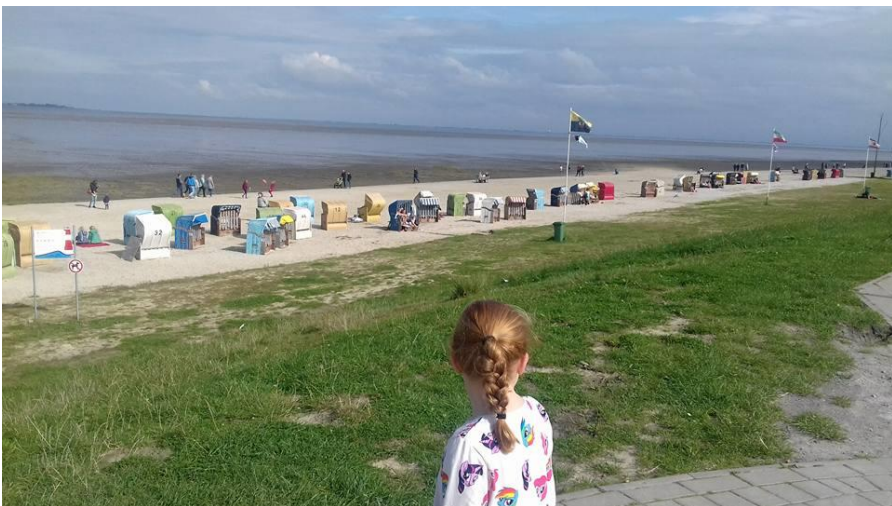
My background

- Born and raised in South Australia
- High school teacher (10 years)
 - > German, Humanities, IT, English, Drama, Music...



My background

- Research Associate
 - > CvO Universität Oldenburg, 2017-2020
 - > ActiveLearn project
 - > PhD, 2020 – *Facilitating student engagement through educational technology: Current research, practices and perspectives*



My background

- EPPI-Reviewer Support Officer
 - > University College London
 - > since Feb 2020
- Systematic & mapping reviews
 - > T&L during COVID-19
 - > Methodological support



Student engagement conceptualisation

Like a black box¹

“A catch-all term”²

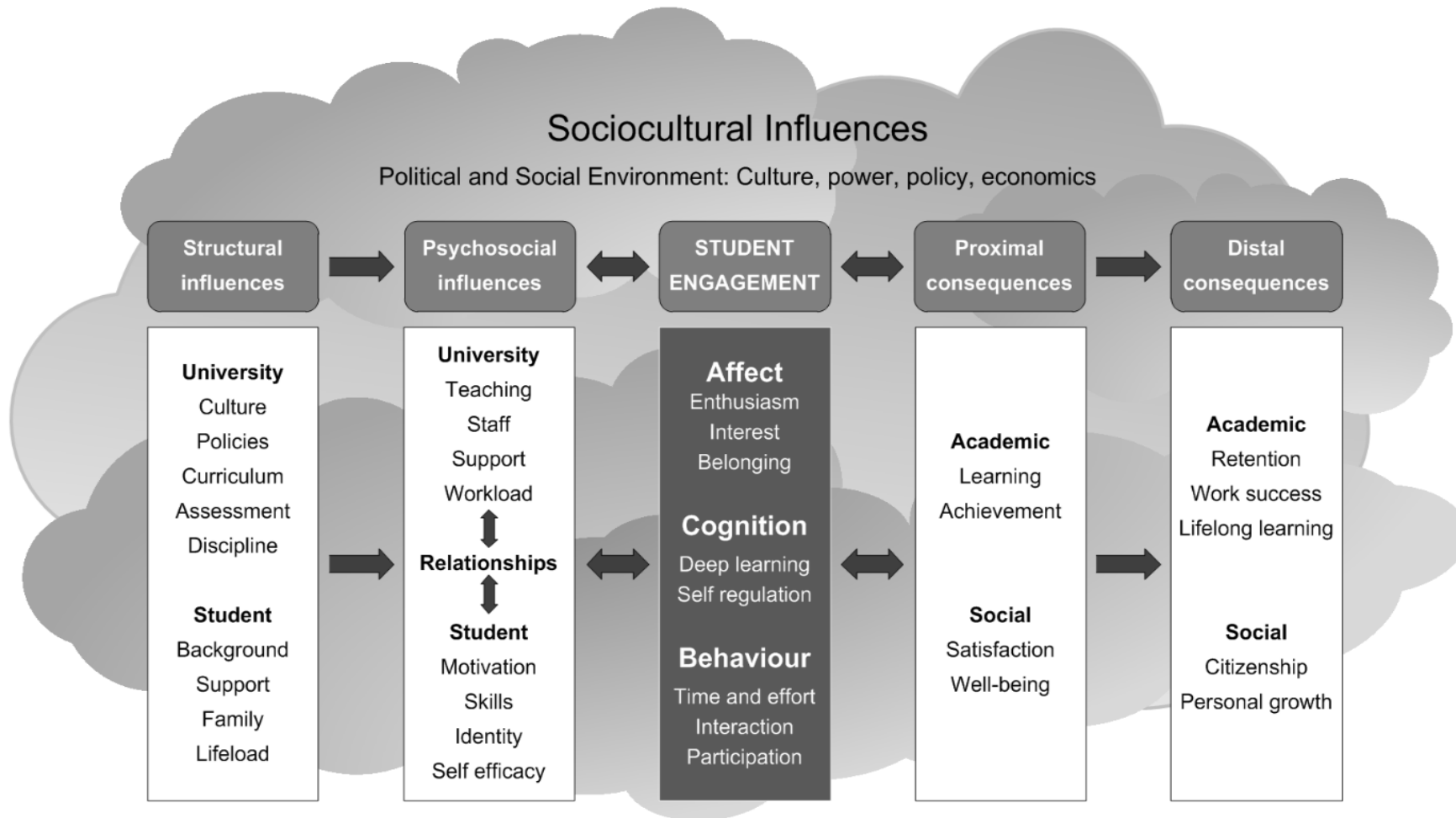
Suffers from indigestion³

“One of the most widely used and overgeneralised constructs found in the educational, learning, instructional and psychological sciences.”⁴

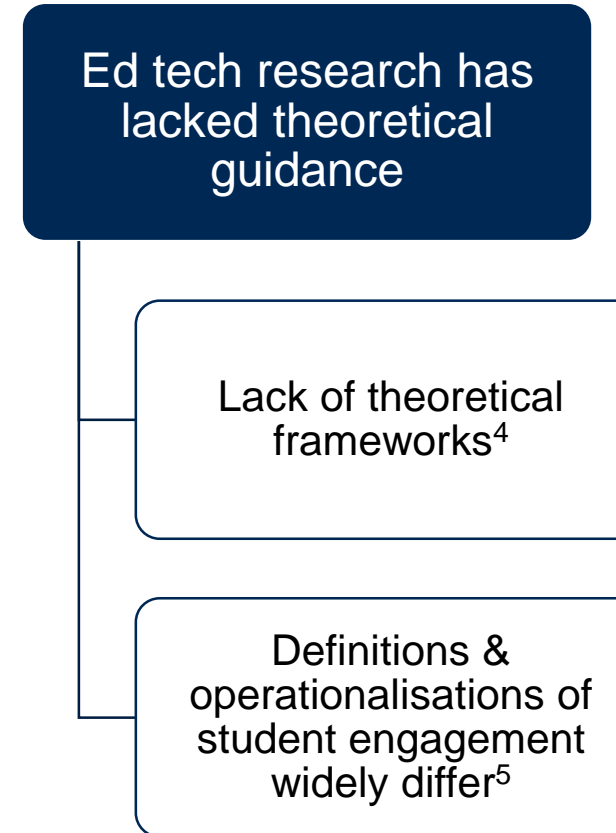
“3 blind men describing an elephant”⁵

1. Bryson & Hardy (2011)
 2. Krause (2005, p. 3)
 3. Zepke (2018, p. 43)
 4. Azevedo (2015, p. 84)
 5. Eccles (2016, p. 71); also Baron & Corbin (2012)

Kahu's (2013) student engagement framework



Educational technology and engagement

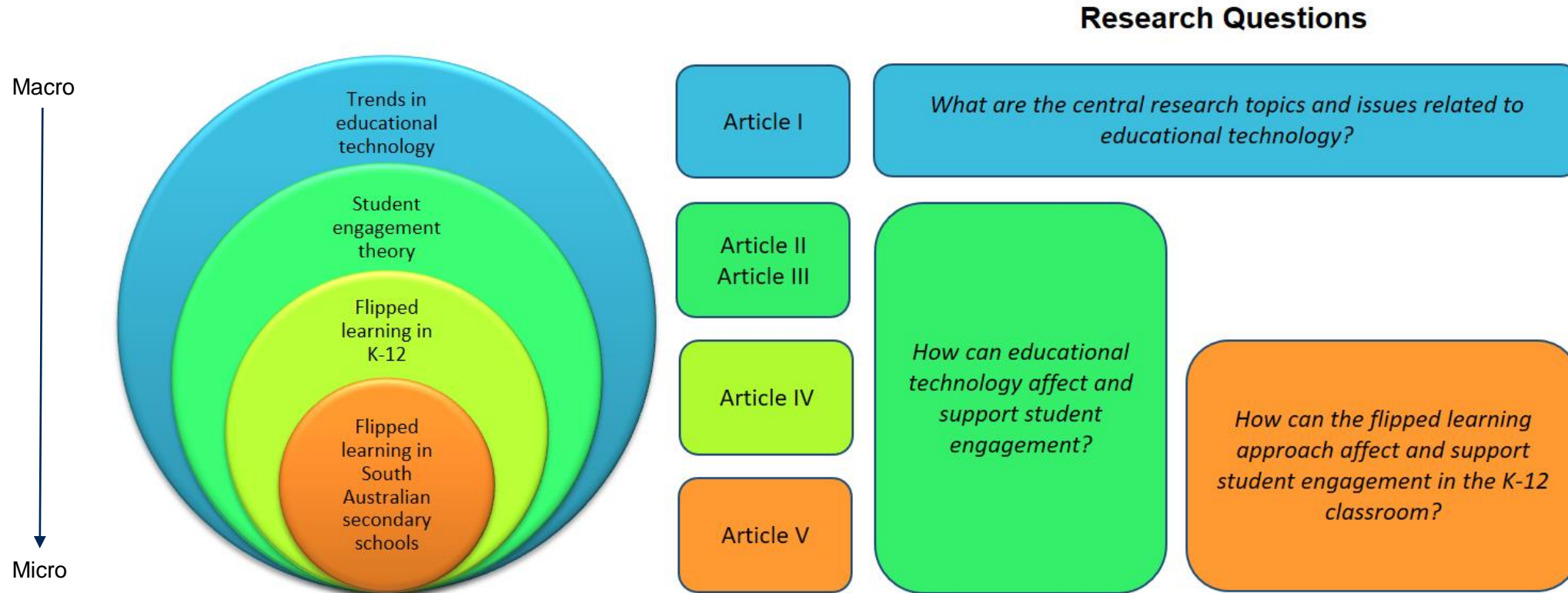


1. Alioon & Delialioglu (2017); Bouta, Retalis & Paraskeva (2012)
2. Salaber (2014); Northey, et al. (2015); Alioon & Delialioglu (2017)
3. Junco (2012); Alioon & Delialioglu (2017)
4. Hew et al. (2019); Karabulut et al. (2018)
5. Henrie, Halverson & Graham (2015)

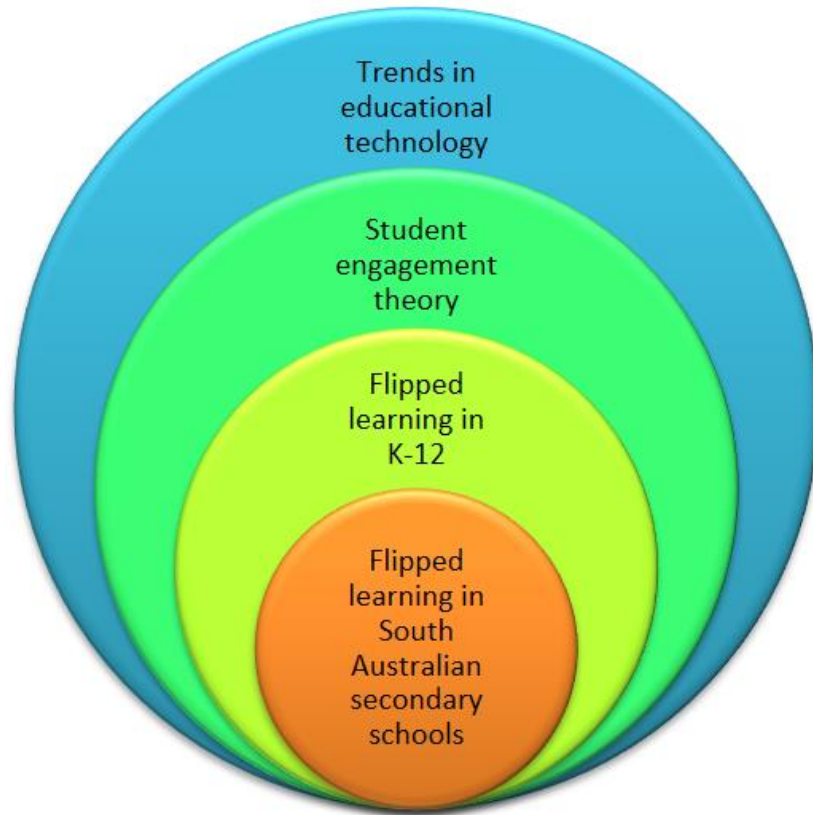
Dissertation Structure

PhD by publication using a social constructivist paradigm¹

- Macro overview, narrowing to micro examples



Methodology



Article I

What are the central research topics and issues related to educational technology?

Qualitative Content Analysis¹

British Journal of Educational Technology, 1970-2018

Article II
Article III

How can educational technology affect and support student engagement?

Theoretical review and framework development

- *Grounded theory²*
- *Article II: Systematic review³*
- *Article III: Conceptual framework development⁴*

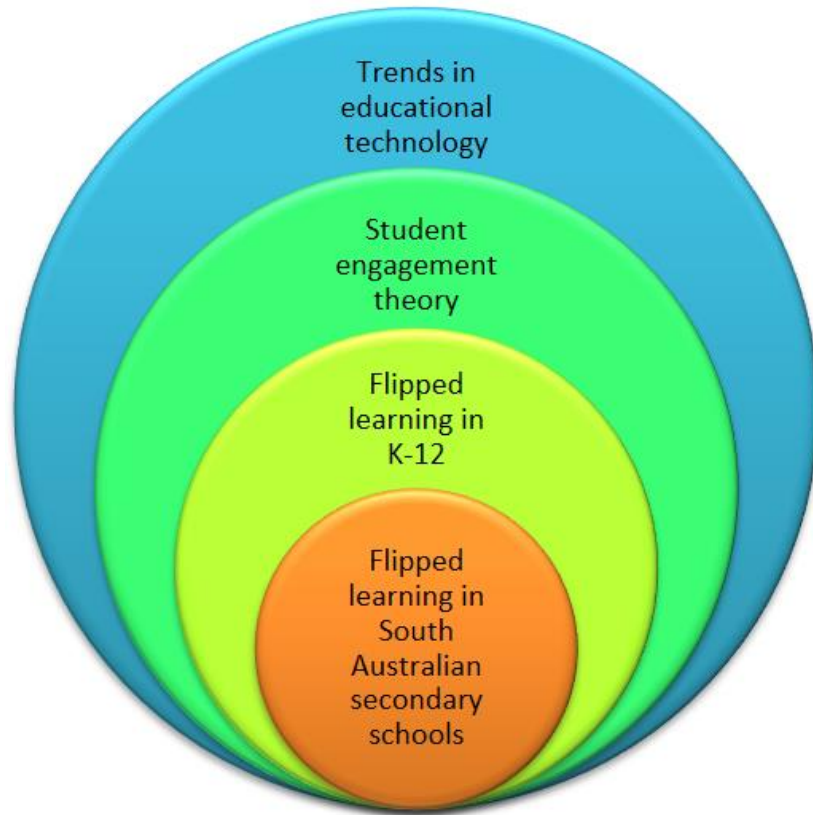
1. Bond, Zawacki-Richter, & Nichols (2019)

2. Glaser & Strauss (1967); Charmaz (2008)

3. Bond, Buntins, Bedenlier, Zawacki-Richter, & Kerres (2020)

4. Bond & Bedenlier (2019)

Methodology



Article IV

How can educational technology affect and support student engagement?

How can the flipped learning approach affect and support student engagement in the K-12 classroom?

Systematic literature review¹

Flipped learning and student engagement in K-12

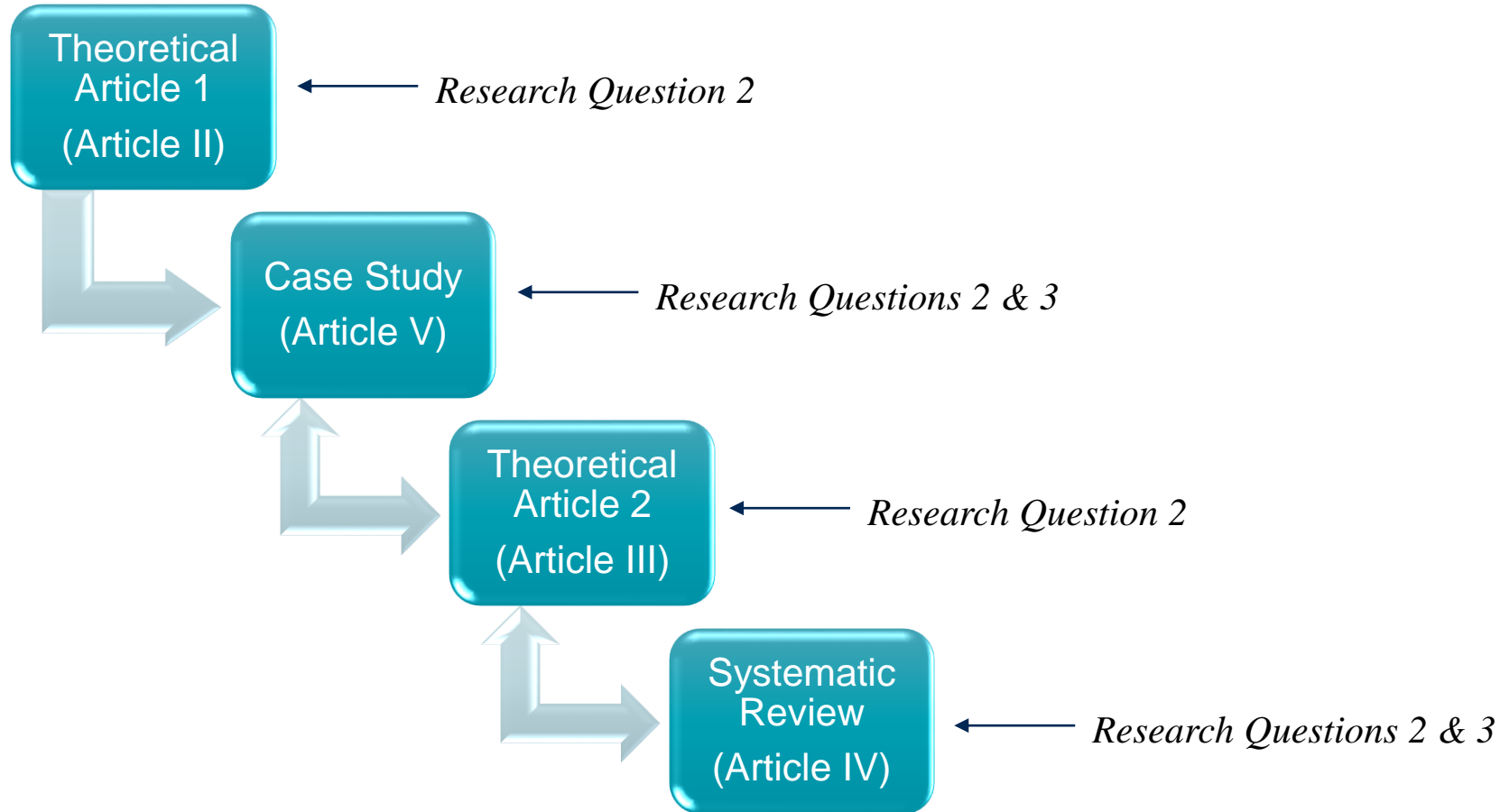
Article V

How can the flipped learning approach affect and support student engagement in the K-12 classroom?

Case Study²

Flipped learning in two South Australian high schools

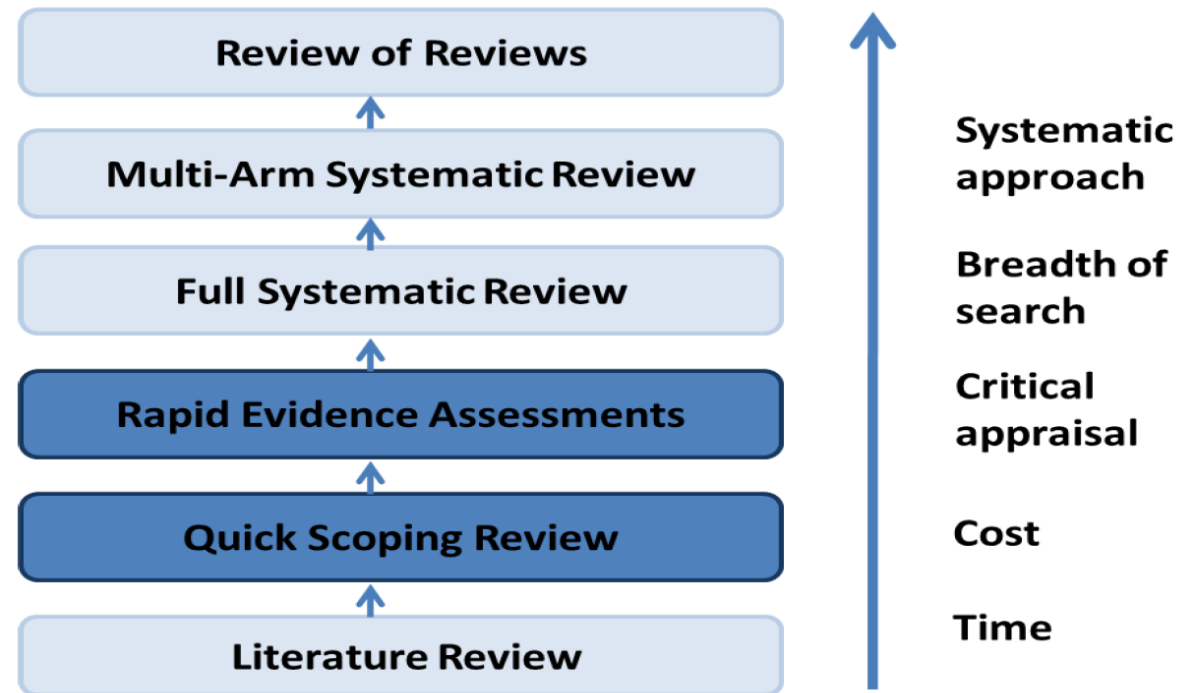
Conceptual framework development



Systematic review methodology

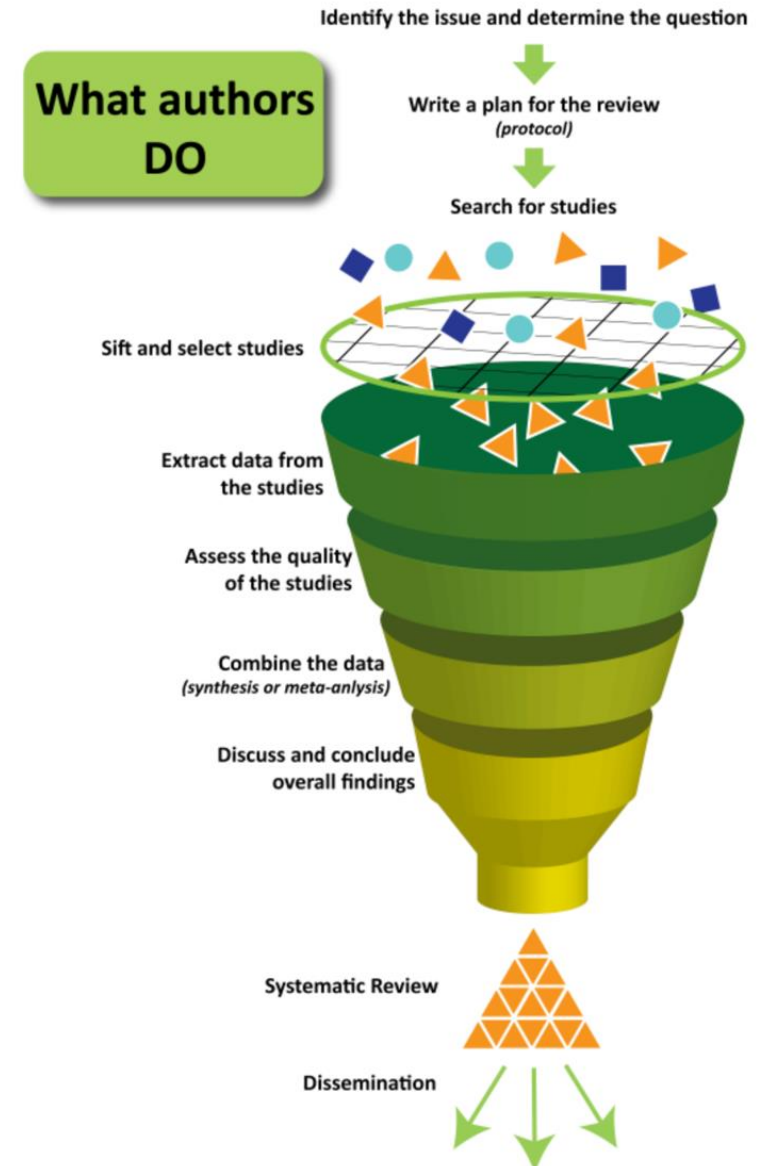
- "a review of research literature using systematic and explicit, accountable methods" (Gough, Oliver & Thomas, 2012, p. 2)
 - Transparent and explicit
 - Replicable and updatable
 - Identify gaps, contradictions or (in)consistencies

- "Rather than looking at any study in isolation, we need to look at the body of evidence" (Nordenbo, 2009, p. 22)



Systematic review process

- Review question and conceptual framework
- Search strategy: search string and selection criteria
- Study screening
 - ❑ Title & Abstract
- Study retrieval
- Screen on full text
- Data Extraction
- Quality assessment
- Synthesis
- Report



Challenges

Understanding of method

Software

Scope and retrieval

Resources (time and people)

Benefits

Search and retrieval skills

Exposure to many research & writing styles

Broad understanding of a topic

Identification of research gaps

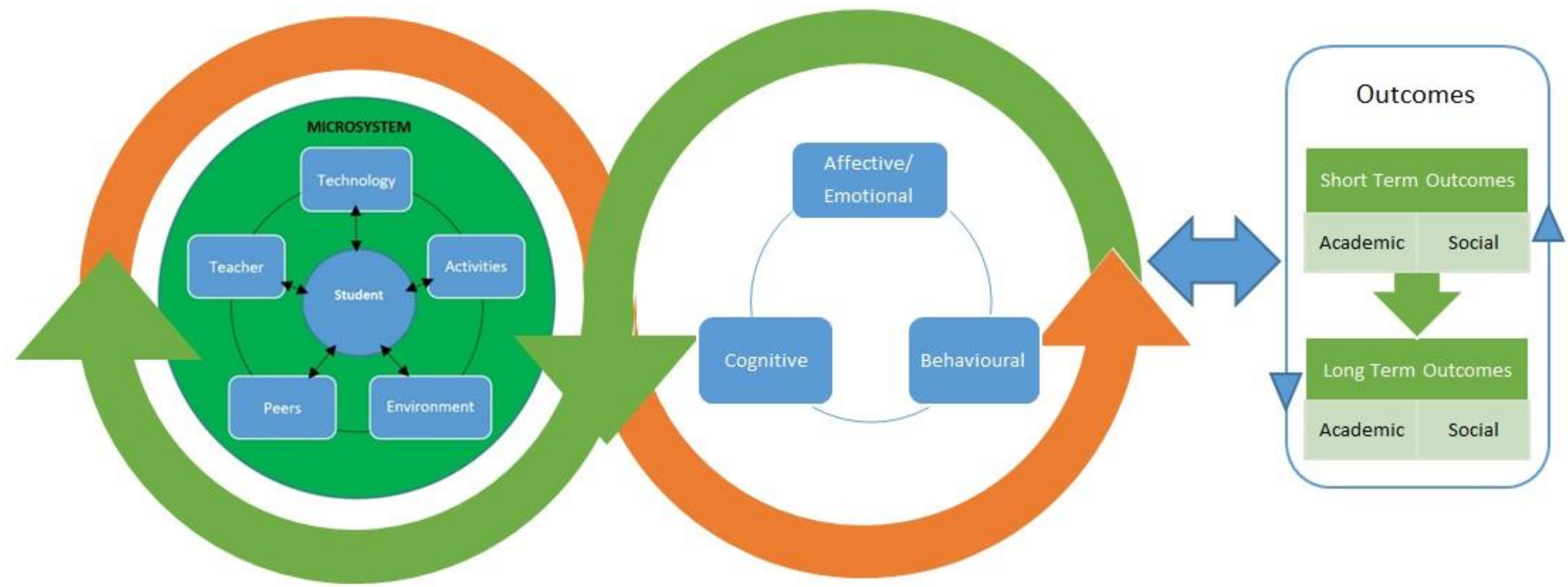
What is student engagement?

Student engagement is the **energy and effort** that students employ within their learning community, observable via any number of **behavioural, cognitive or affective** indicators across a continuum. It is shaped by a range of **structural and internal influences**, including the complex interplay of relationships, learning activities and the learning environment. The more students are engaged and empowered within their learning community, the more likely they are to channel that energy back into their learning, leading to a range of short and long term outcomes, that can likewise further fuel engagement.¹

Student engagement framework¹

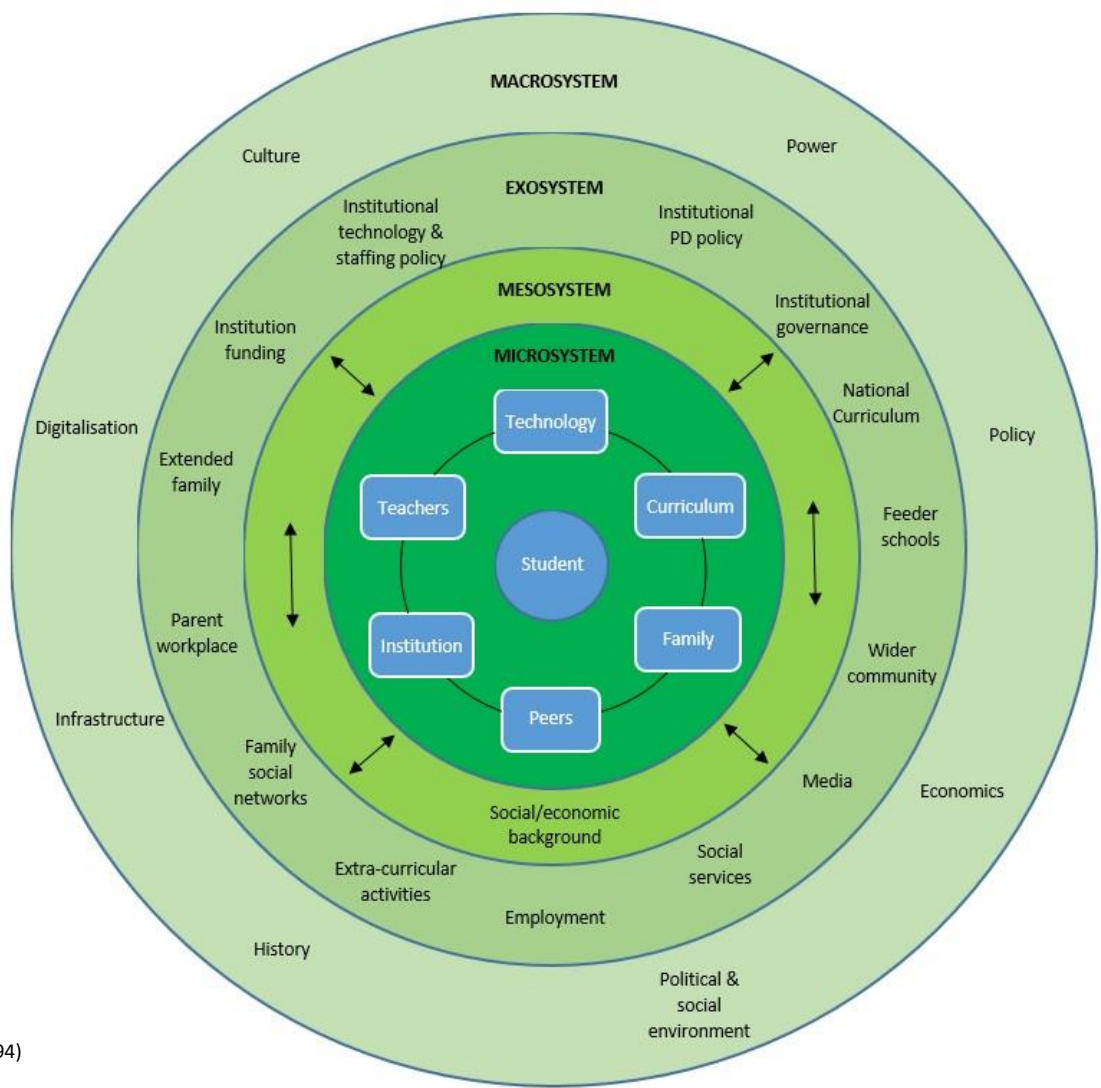
Technology-Enhanced Learning Environment

Student Engagement



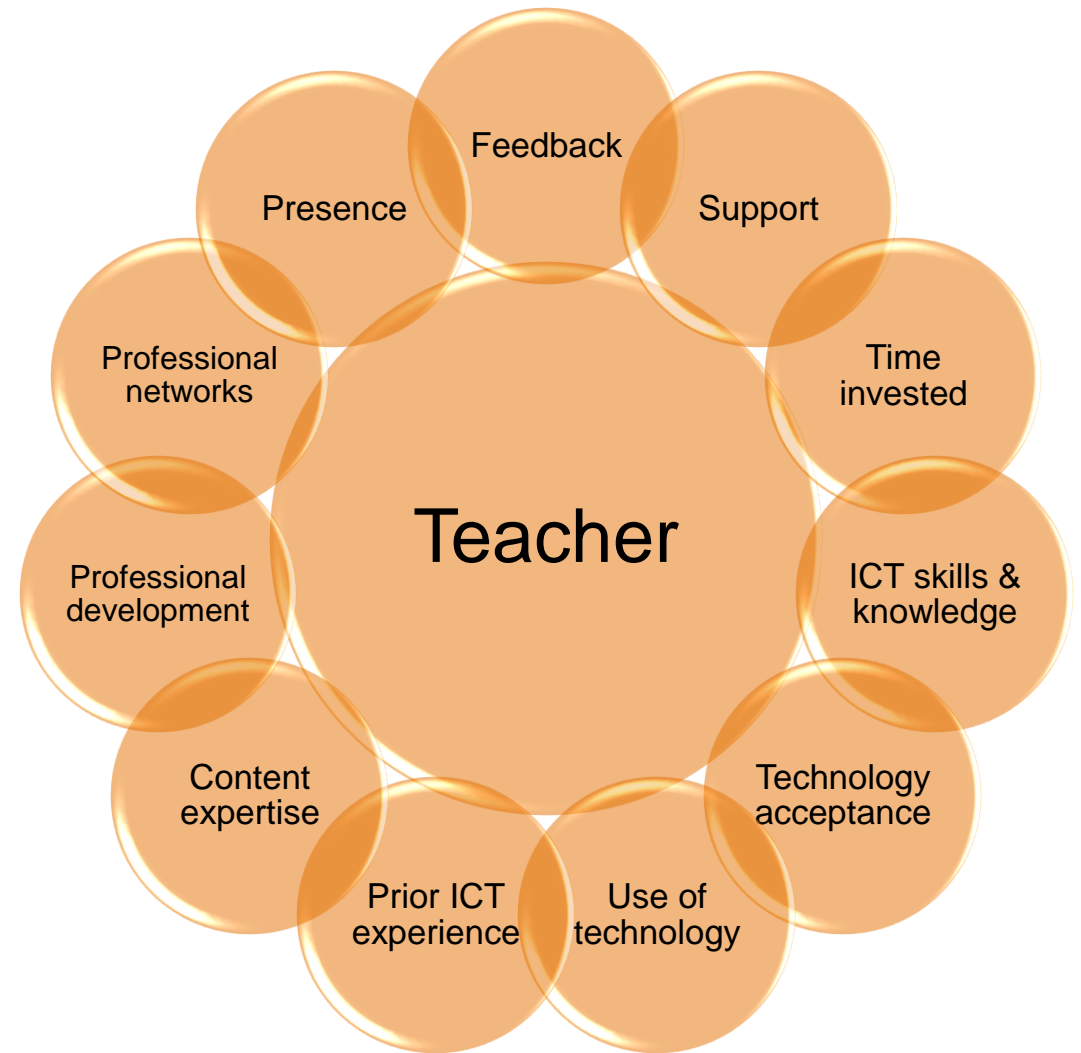
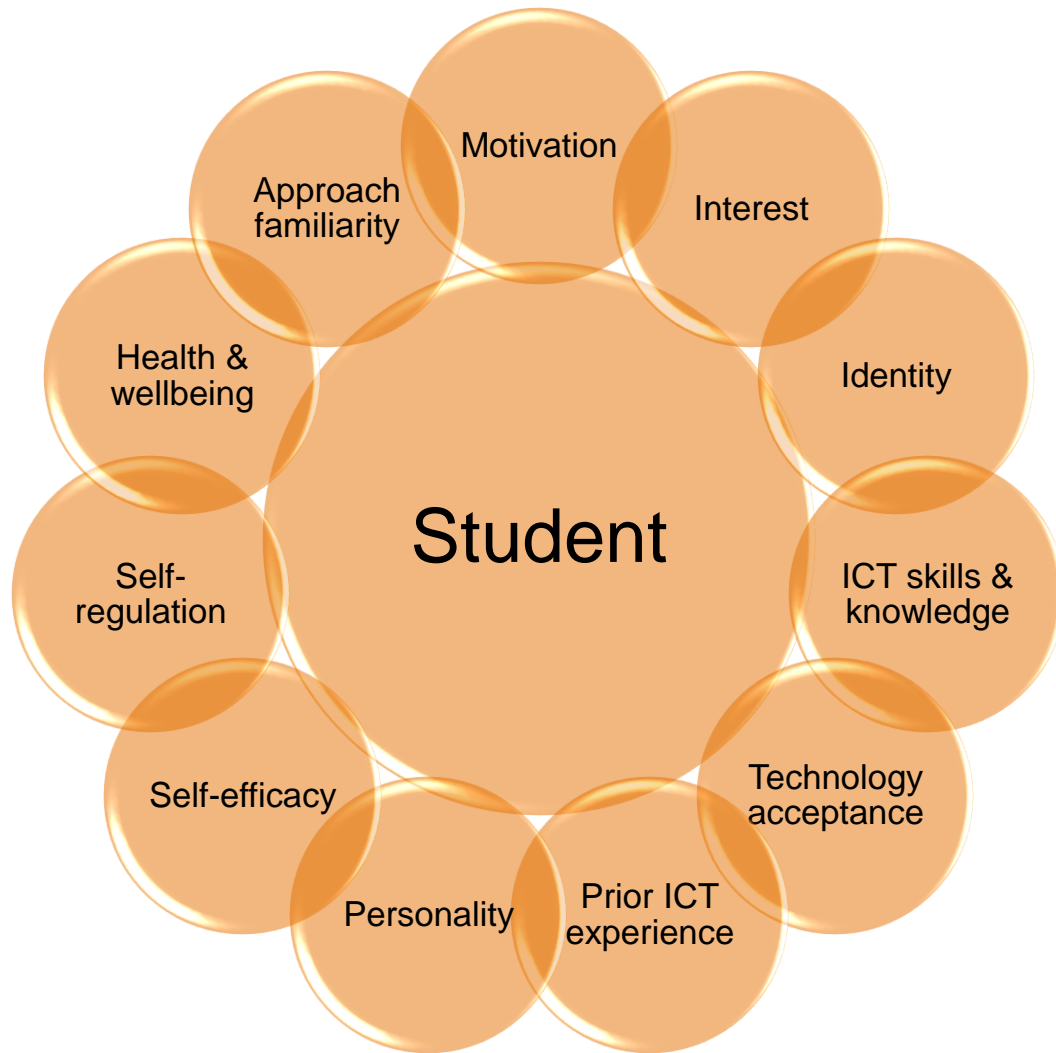
1. Bond & Bedenlier (2019, p. 8)

Bioecological Student Engagement Framework

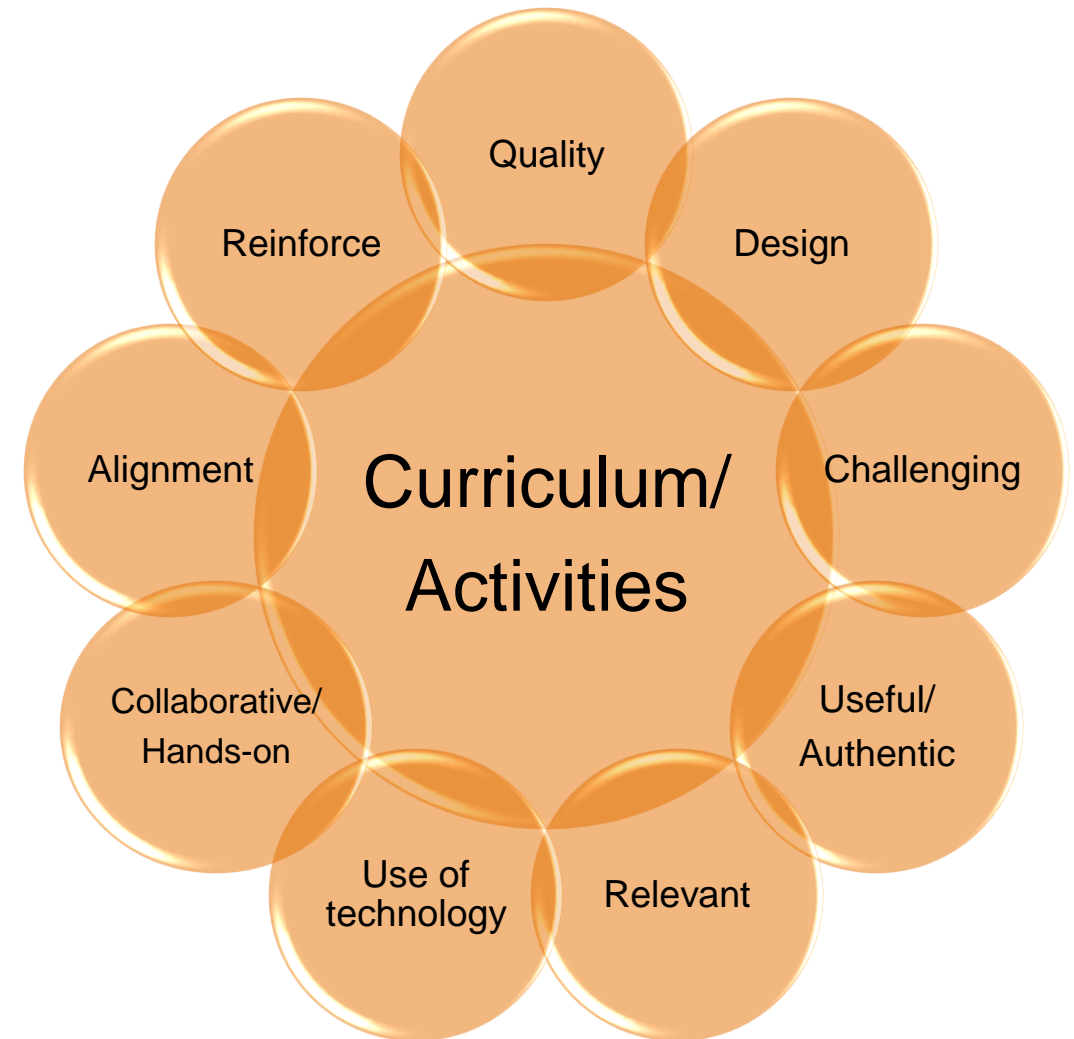
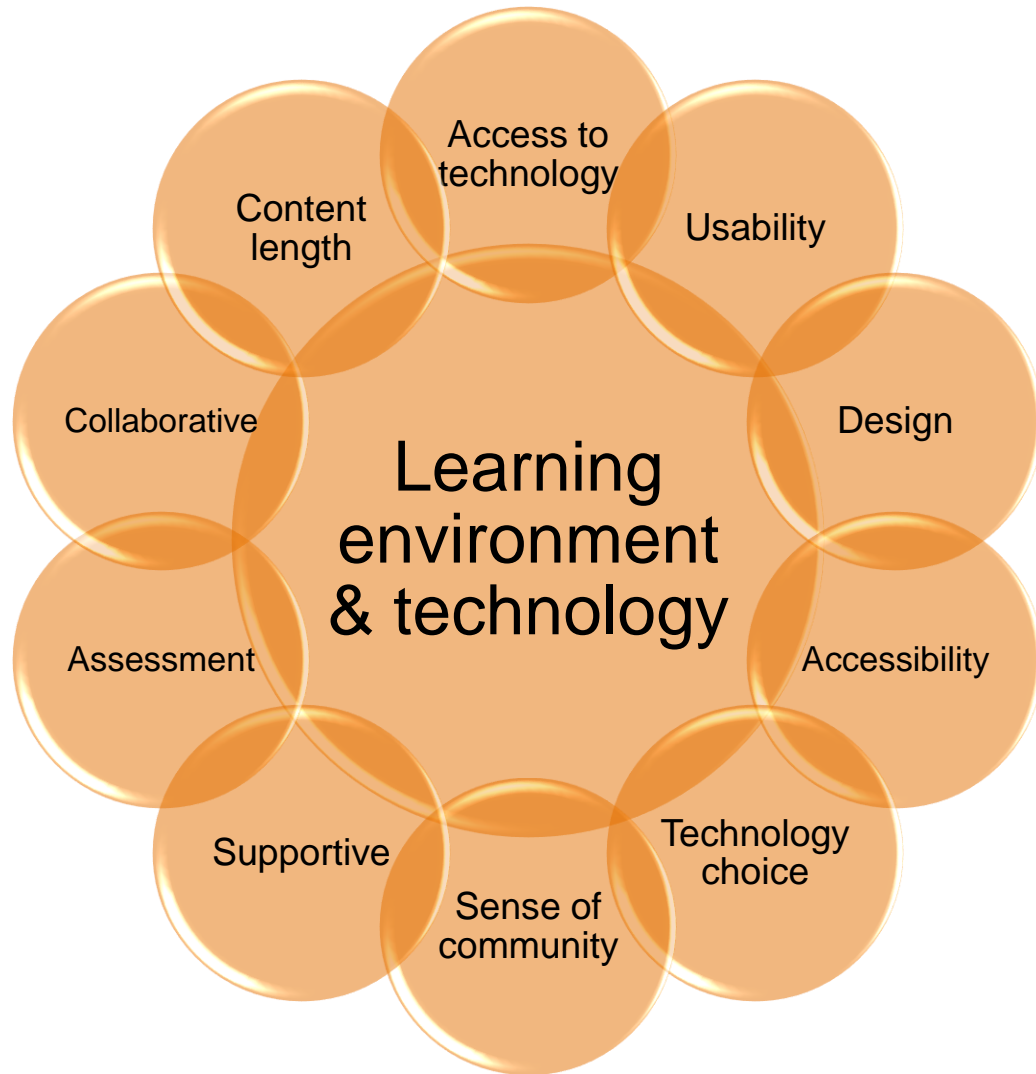


Adapted from Bronfenbrenner (1979; 1986) & Bronfenbrenner & Ceci (1994)

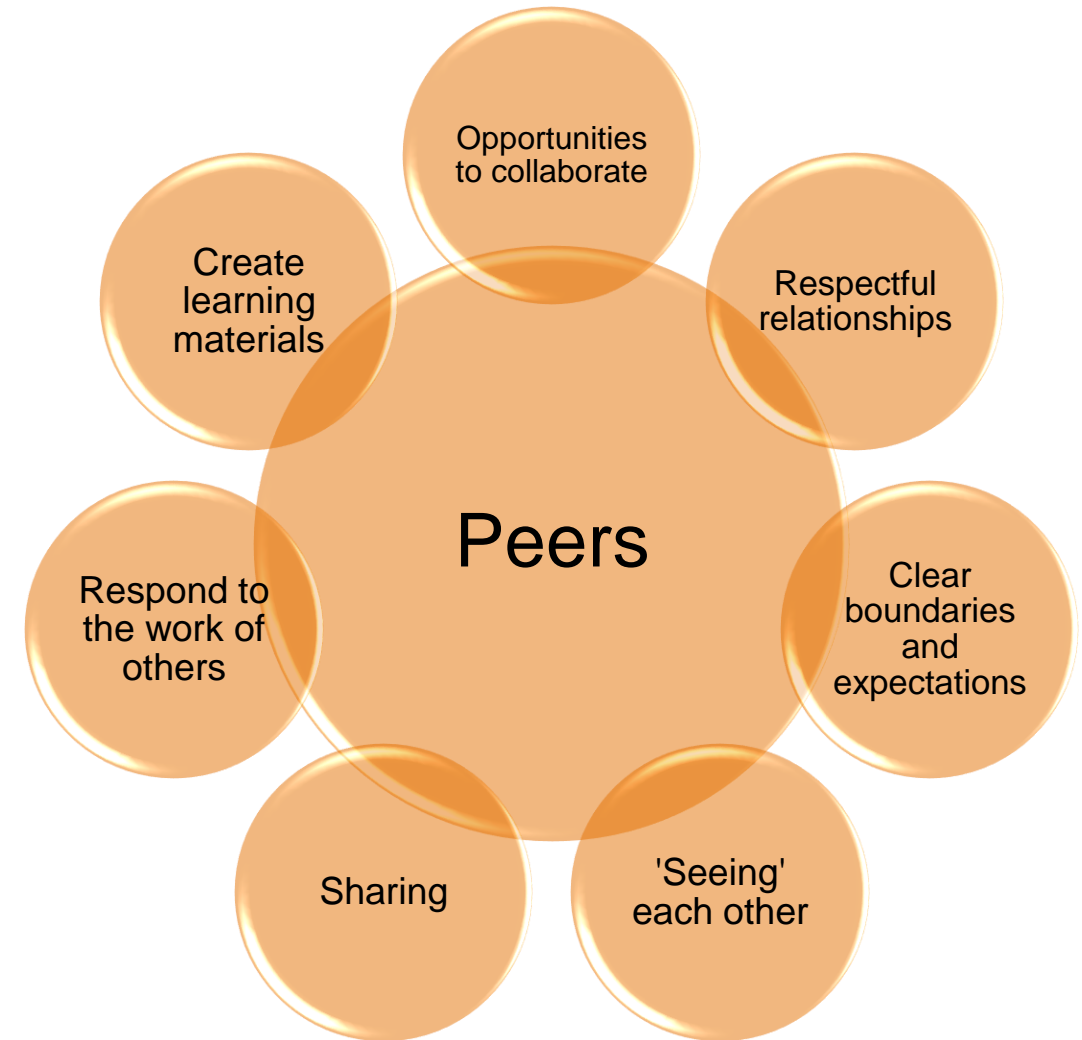
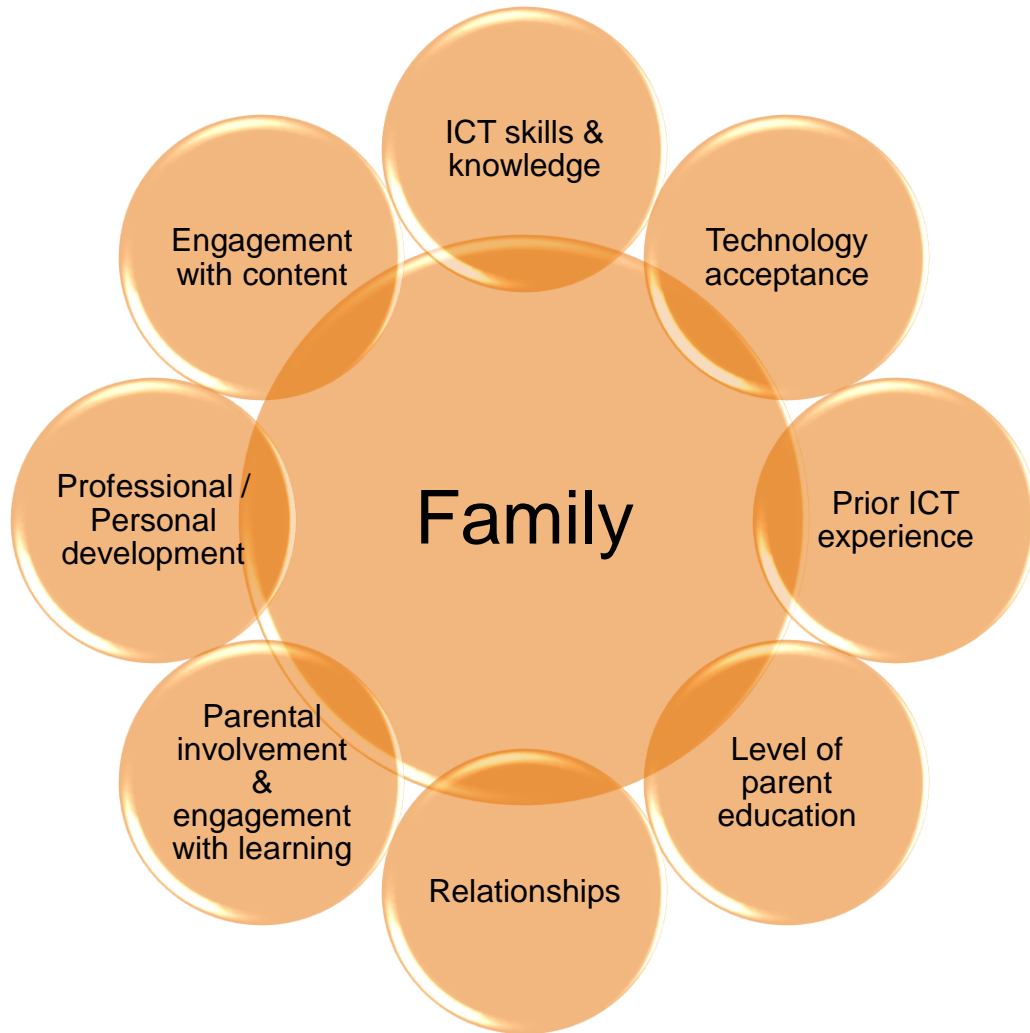
Internal/external influences on student engagement



External influences on student engagement



External influences on student engagement



Behavioural	Affective	Cognitive
Effort	Enthusiasm	Purposeful
Time on task/staying on task	Sense of belonging/connectedness	Critical thinking
Study habits/accessing content	Sense of wellbeing	Self-regulation
Developing agency	Desire to do well	Setting learning goals
Attendance	Satisfaction	Operational reasoning
Interaction (peers, teacher, content, technology)	Positive attitude towards learning	Positive self-perceptions and self-efficacy
Attempting	Sees relevance	Integrating ideas
Homework completion	Curiosity	Teaching self and peers
Positive conduct	Interest	Positive perceptions of teacher support
Action/initiation	Vitality/zest	Justifying decisions
Asking teacher or peers for help	Feeling appreciated	Deep learning
Assuming responsibility	Excitement	Focus/concentration
Confidence	Enjoyment	Reflection
Supporting and encouraging peers	Pride	Understanding

Behavioural	Affective	Cognitive
Procrastination	Boredom	Aimless
Half-hearted	Anger	Unwilling
Absent	Shame	Apathy
Giving up	Dislike	Helpless
Burned out/exhausted	Disinterest	Unfocused/inattentive
Poor conduct	Dissatisfied	Opposition/rejection
Restlessness	Disappointment	Resigned
Distracted/off task	Worry/anxiety	Avoidance
Unprepared	Frustration	Pressured
Task incompleteness	Self-blame	
	Lack of confidence	
	Overwhelmed	

Technology and student engagement in HE

Research questions

1. How do the studies in the sample ground student engagement and align with theory?
2. Which indicators of cognitive, behavioural and affective engagement were identified in studies where educational technology was used? Which indicators of student disengagement?
3. What are the learning scenarios, modes of delivery and educational technology tools employed in the studies?

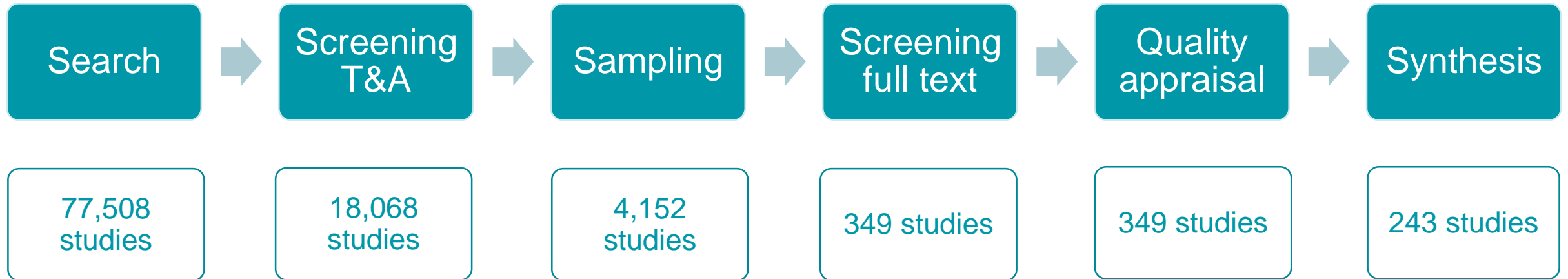
METHOD

Systematic review

- Comprehensive search string
- ERIC, Web of Science, Scopus, PsycINFO

Inclusion criteria

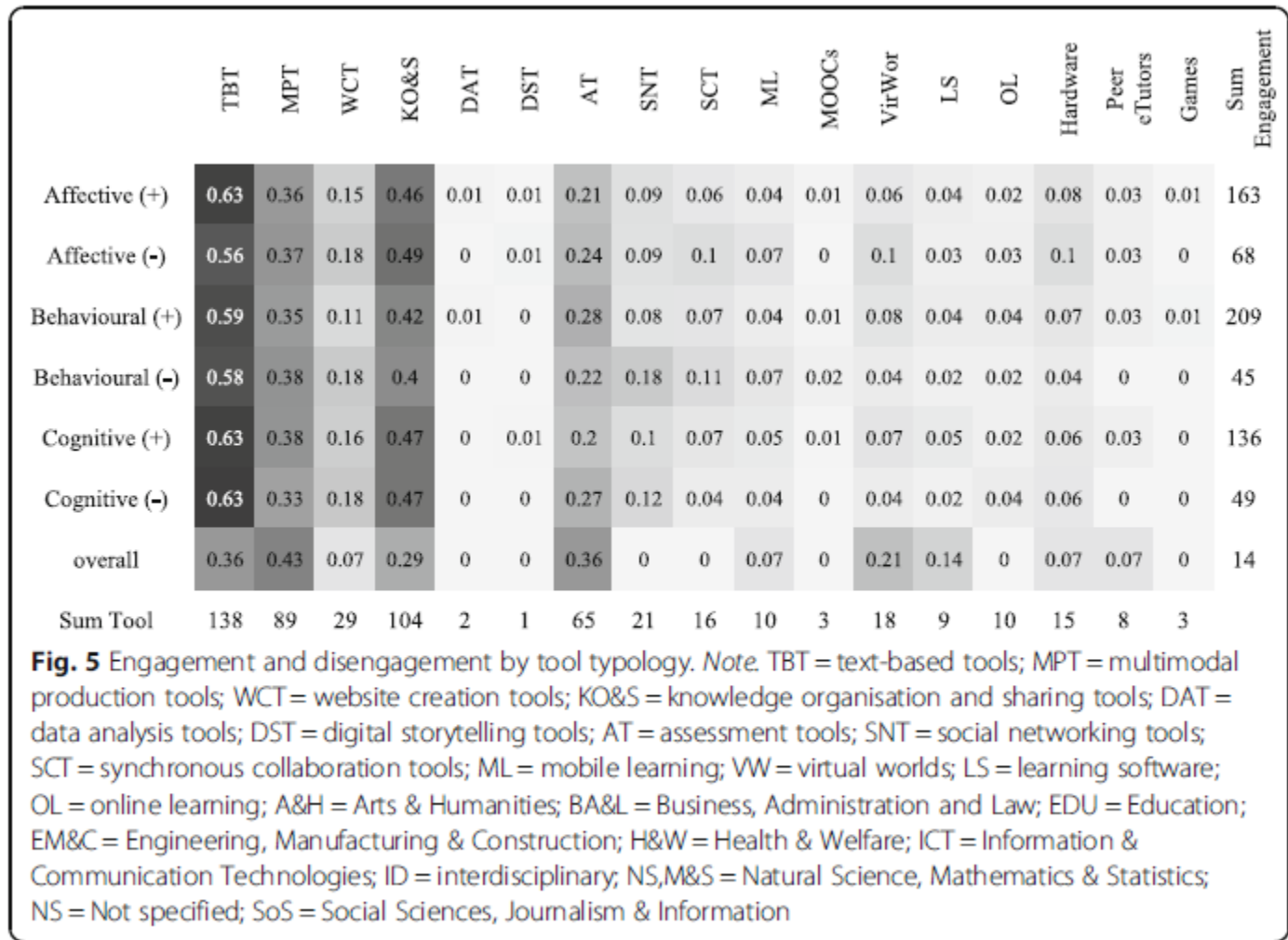
- 2007-2016
- Higher education
- English
- Teaching and learning
- Peer reviewed
- Primary, empirical research
- Educational technology
- Student engagement



- Almost all studies lacked a definition of student engagement (93%, $n = 225$)
- Evidence of at least one dimension of engagement in 94% ($n = 229$)
 - Behavioural engagement 86%
 - Affective engagement 67%
 - Cognitive engagement 56%

Top five engagement and disengagement indicators

Engagement Indicators			Disengagement Indicators	
1	Participation/involvement	49%	Frustration	14%
2	Achievement	44%	Opposition/rejection	8%
3	Positive interaction with teachers/peers	41%	Disappointment	7%
4	Enjoyment	23%	Pressured	7%
5	Learning from peers	22%	Worry/anxiety	7%



Flipped learning and student engagement in K-12

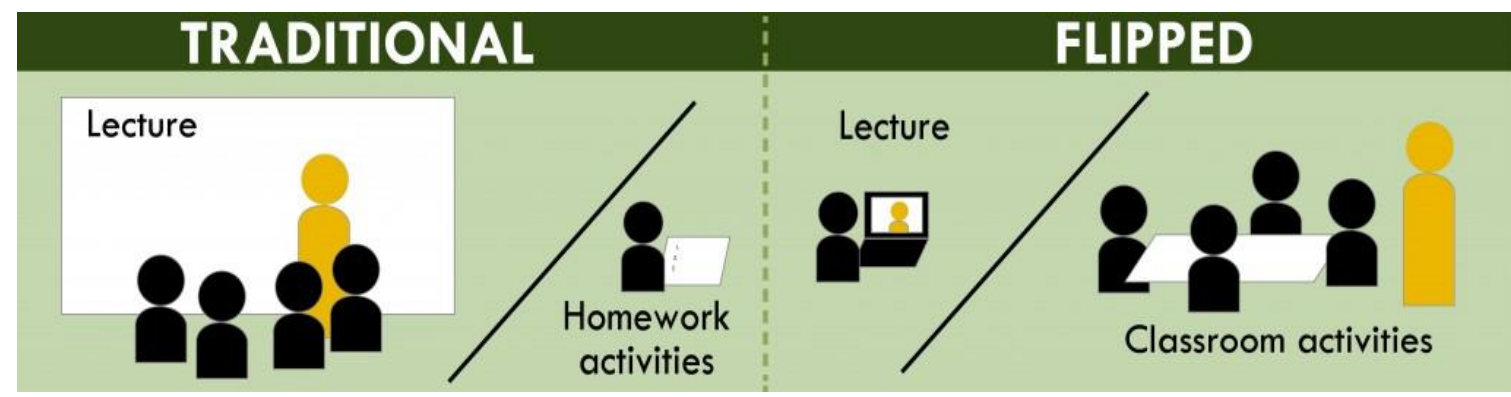
Research questions

1. What are the characteristics (countries, educational settings, participants, subjects, length of studies) of and methods used in research on flipped learning and student engagement in K-12?
2. How is research on flipped learning in K-12 theoretically grounded?
3. Which indicators of student engagement and disengagement are affected as a result of using the flipped learning approach in K-12?
4. What technology has been used in K-12 applications of flipped learning research, and how is it linked to engagement?

What is flipped learning?

A student-centered approach with “great promise”¹

Flipped Learning is a framework that enables educators to reach every student. The Flipped approach inverts the traditional classroom model by introducing class concepts before class, allowing educators to use class time to guide each student through active, practical, innovative applications of the course principles.²



Traditional versus flipped instruction, source: <https://www.washington.edu/teaching/topics/engaging-students-in-learning/flipping-the-classroom/>

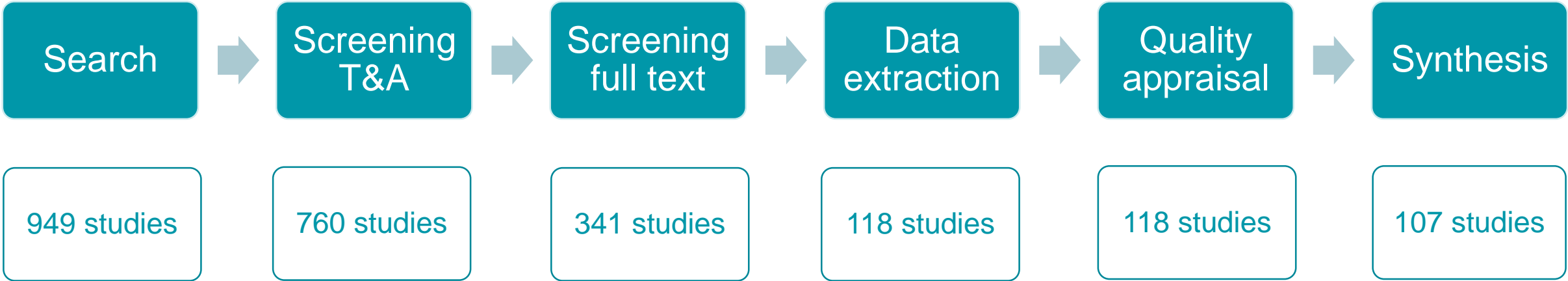
METHOD

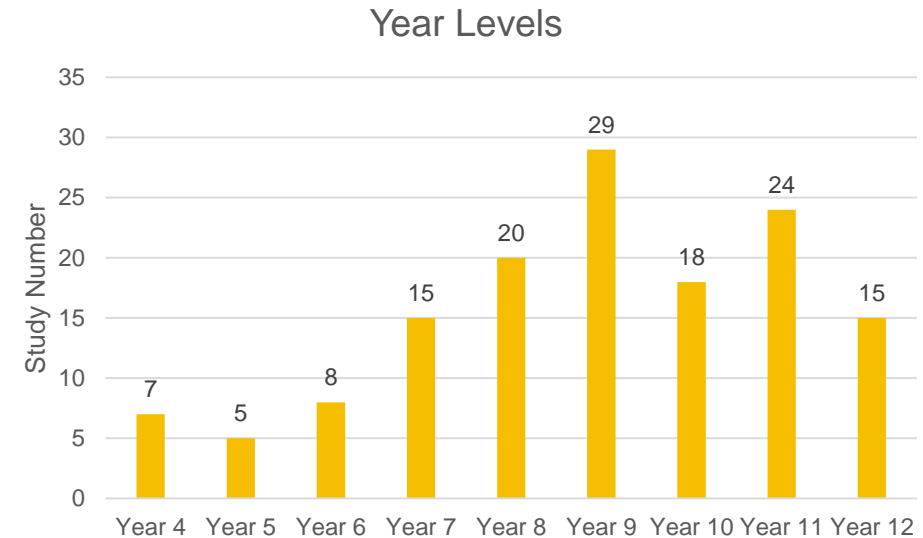
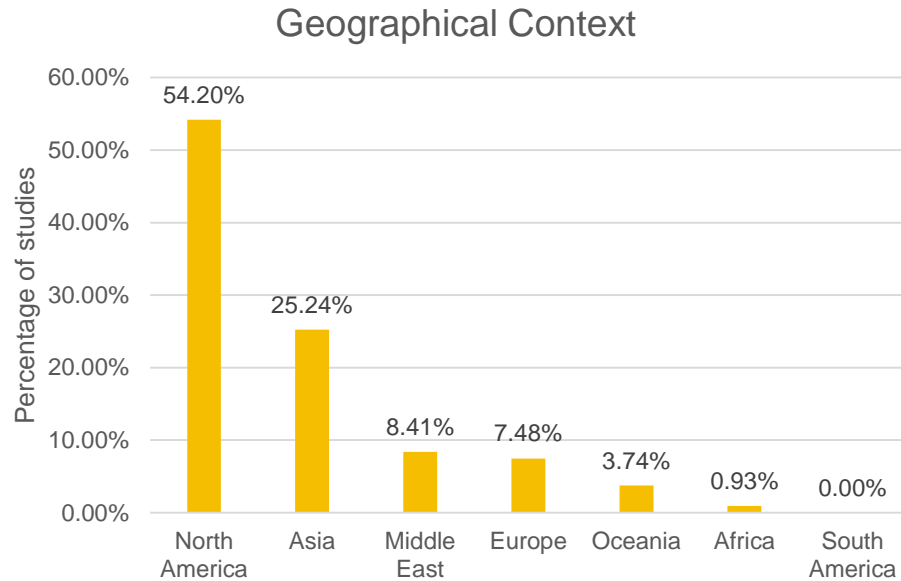
Systematic review

- ERIC, Web of Science, Scopus, PsycINFO, ProQuest, Teacher Reference Center, Education Source

Inclusion criteria

- 2012-2018
- K-12
- English language
- Primary, empirical research
- Flipped learning
- Student engagement





- STEM subjects the most researched.
 - Maths by far the most popular (38.3%)
- Shorter studies focused on one class only dominated.
- Quantitative (41%), qualitative (30%), mixed methods (29%).
- Videos made by teachers (57.9%), self-assessment quizzes (54.2%) and LMS (51.4%).

- Evidence of at least one dimension of engagement in 93% ($n = 99$)
 - Behavioural engagement 81%
 - Affective engagement 74%
 - Cognitive engagement 72%

Top five engagement and disengagement indicators

	Engagement Indicators		Disengagement Indicators	
1	Increased interaction with peers	47%	Task incompleteness	21%
2	Enjoyment	39%	Frustration	15%
3	Participation/involvement	36%	Unwillingness	14%
4	Increased interaction with teachers	35%	Confusion	14%
5	Increased confidence	31%	Dislike	13%

	Videos (teacher)	Videos (others)	Videos (?)	You Tube	Khan	LMS	Other LMS	Edmodo	GC	Moodle	Quizzes
	<i>n</i> = 62	<i>n</i> = 29	<i>n</i> = 20	<i>n</i> = 17	<i>n</i> = 10	<i>n</i> = 55	<i>n</i> = 23	<i>n</i> = 12	<i>n</i> = 10	<i>n</i> = 10	<i>n</i> = 58
Behavioural Engagement	87%	93%	70%	82%	80%	80%	70%	92%	100%	80%	76%
Affective Engagement	73%	86%	75%	76%	70%	82%	78%	83%	90%	90%	74%
Cognitive Engagement	69%	83%	75%	65%	70%	69%	65%	83%	70%	70%	74%

Note ? = uncertain origin; LMS numbers include those that used named LMS such as Google Classroom; Other LMS = LMS not including Edmodo, Google Classroom or Moodle; GC = Google Classroom

	Videos (teacher)	Videos (others)	Videos (?)	You Tube	Khan	LMS	Other LMS	Edmodo	GC	Moodle	Quizzes
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Behavioural Diseng.	35%	55%	35%	47%	50%	38%	46%	33%	40%	30%	34%
Affective Diseng.	32%	38%	35%	35%	50%	36%	38%	33%	50%	30%	33%
Cognitive Diseng.	27%	45%	25%	24%	30%	33%	42%	17%	30%	40%	28%

Note: Diseng. = disengagement; ? = uncertain origin; LMS numbers include those that used named LMS such as Google Classroom; Other LMS = LMS not including Edmodo, Google Classroom or Moodle; GC = Google Classroom

Online and blended learning in secondary schools during the COVID-19 pandemic

Research questions

1. In what ways did emergency remote education affect motivation and engagement in secondary students?
2. How did research report on emerging online assessment practices in secondary schooling during the pandemic?
3. Are new approaches to peer collaboration emerging and what does this suggest?
4. How did online learning in secondary schools affect parent engagement?
5. What emerging uses of online and blended learning approaches in secondary schools could continue to be implemented going forward?

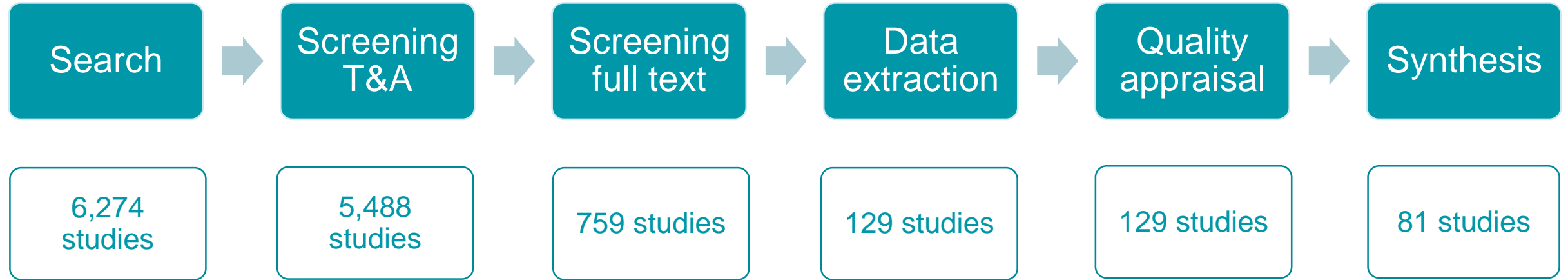
METHOD

Systematic review

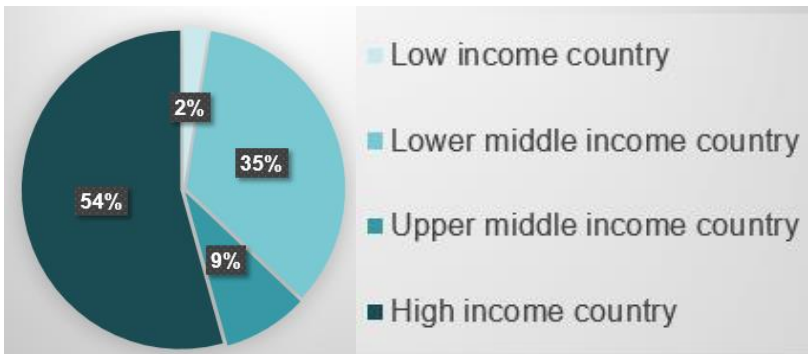
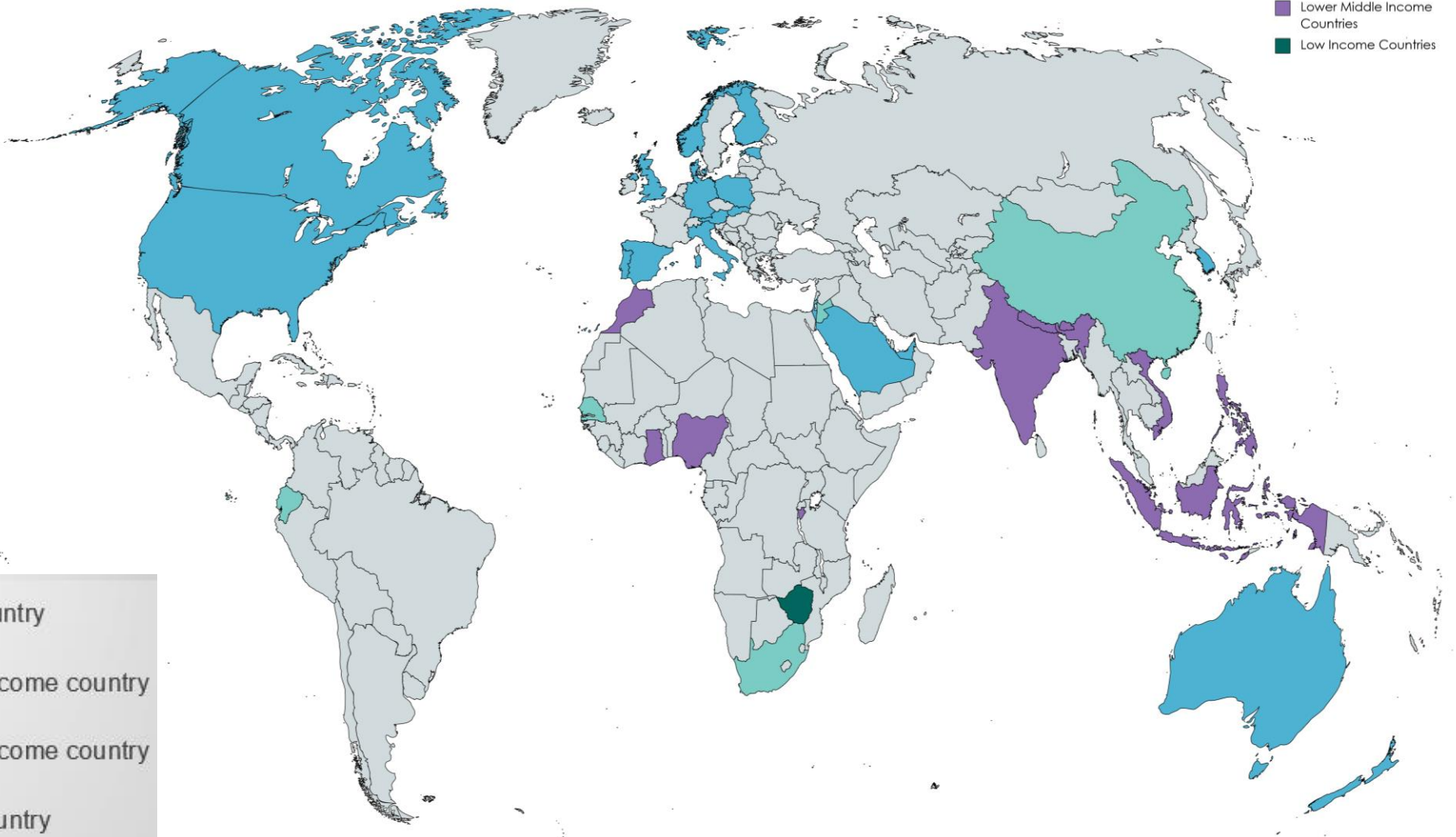
This is a systematic review of research, using rigorous methods for identifying evidence, conducting quality appraisal and synthesis: 81 studies met our criteria and were included in the review.

Inclusion criteria

- Secondary school only
- English
- Teaching and learning
- Online or blended learning
- Primary, empirical research
- Undertaken during the pandemic



Continent	N	%
Asia	34	42%
Europe	21	26%
North America	12	15%
Africa	5	6%
Middle East	5	6%
Oceania	3	4%
South America	1	1%



This review

- Some students were more motivated to learn and complete school work.
 - Increased ability to study.
 - Heightened sense of responsibility.

- Some reserved students were found to interact and participate more.

Engagement Indicators		
1	Heightened self-regulation	26%
2	Understanding of topics/tasks	19%
3	Enjoyment	17%
4	Positive study habits	17%
5	Sense of wellbeing	16%

This review

- Emotional and physical distance.
- More instances of behavioural disengagement in studies from high income countries (59%) as opposed to lower middle income countries (29%).
- Having to learn to use new tools, as well as learning online, was quite overwhelming, alongside life load.

Engagement Indicators		
1	Heightened self-regulation	26%
2	Understanding of topics/tasks	19%
3	Enjoyment	17%
4	Positive study habits	17%
5	Sense of wellbeing	16%

Disengagement Indicators		
1	Feeling isolated socially	27%
2	Absence from live lessons	19%
3	Confusion	19%
4	Feeling overwhelmed	14%
5	Dislike	12%

Flipped learning review pre-pandemic

Engagement Indicators		
1	Increased interaction with peers	47%
2	Enjoyment	39%
3	Participation/involvement	36%
4	Increased interaction with teachers	35%
5	Increased confidence	31%

Disengagement Indicators		
1	Task incompleteness	21%
2	Frustration	15%
3	Unwillingness	14%
4	Confusion	14%
5	Dislike	13%

This review

Engagement Indicators		
1	Heightened self-regulation	26%
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Disengagement Indicators		
1	Feeling isolated socially	27%
2	Absence from live lessons	19%
3	Confusion	19%
4	Feeling overwhelmed	14%
5	Dislike	12%



In what ways did emergency remote education affect motivation and engagement in secondary students during the COVID-19 pandemic?








An interactive evidence gap map to accompany the systematic review 'Emergency remote education in secondary schooling during COVID-19'








		Study Characteristics												
		Technology used												
		Synchronous collaboration tools	Multimodal production tools	Knowledge organisation & sharing tools	Text-based tools	Social networking tools	Assessment tools	Learning games	Website creation tools	Non-tech printed materials	Other technology (e.g. radio)	Data analysis tools	Virtual worlds	N
Outcomes	Student engagement	Positive/Increased Motivation												
	Positive overall engagement													
	Cognitive engagement													
	Affective engagement													
	Behavioural engagement													
	Learning gains													

[Interactive EGM Link](#)

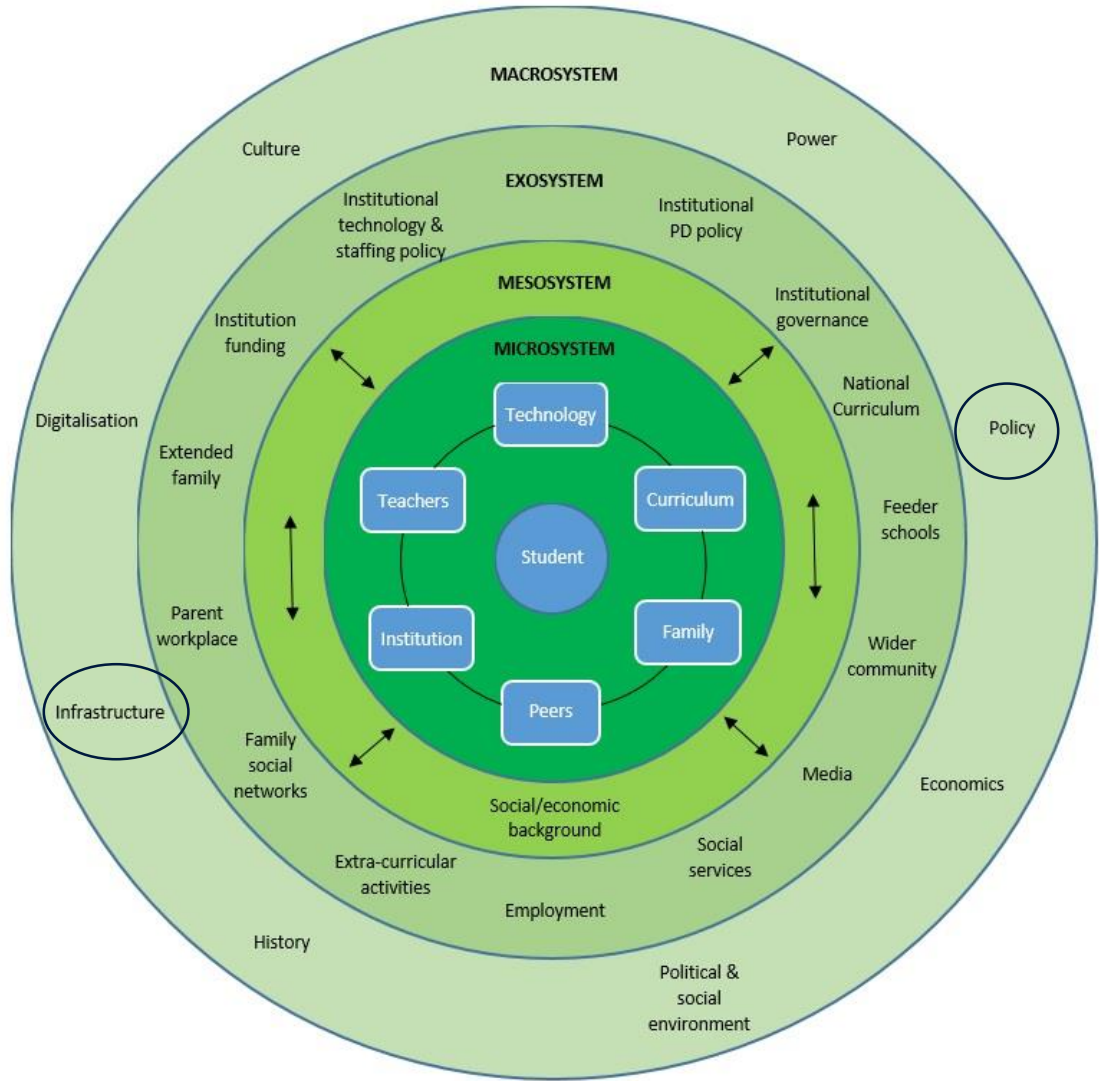
WHAT WAS FOUND ENGAGING?

-  Assessment tools, especially quizzes
-  Learning management systems with collaborative tools
-  Breakout rooms with chat for peer interaction and teaching
-  Live synchronous lessons including social time
-  Teacher-made videos, alongside videos from others

PARTICULAR CHALLENGES

-  Lack of student attendance in live lessons
-  Decreased opportunities for interaction
-  Unexpected changes to the school day
-  Fewer opportunities to ask questions
-  Written explanations sometimes unclear
-  Volume of work assigned by teachers
-  Distractions in the home

Implications for practice



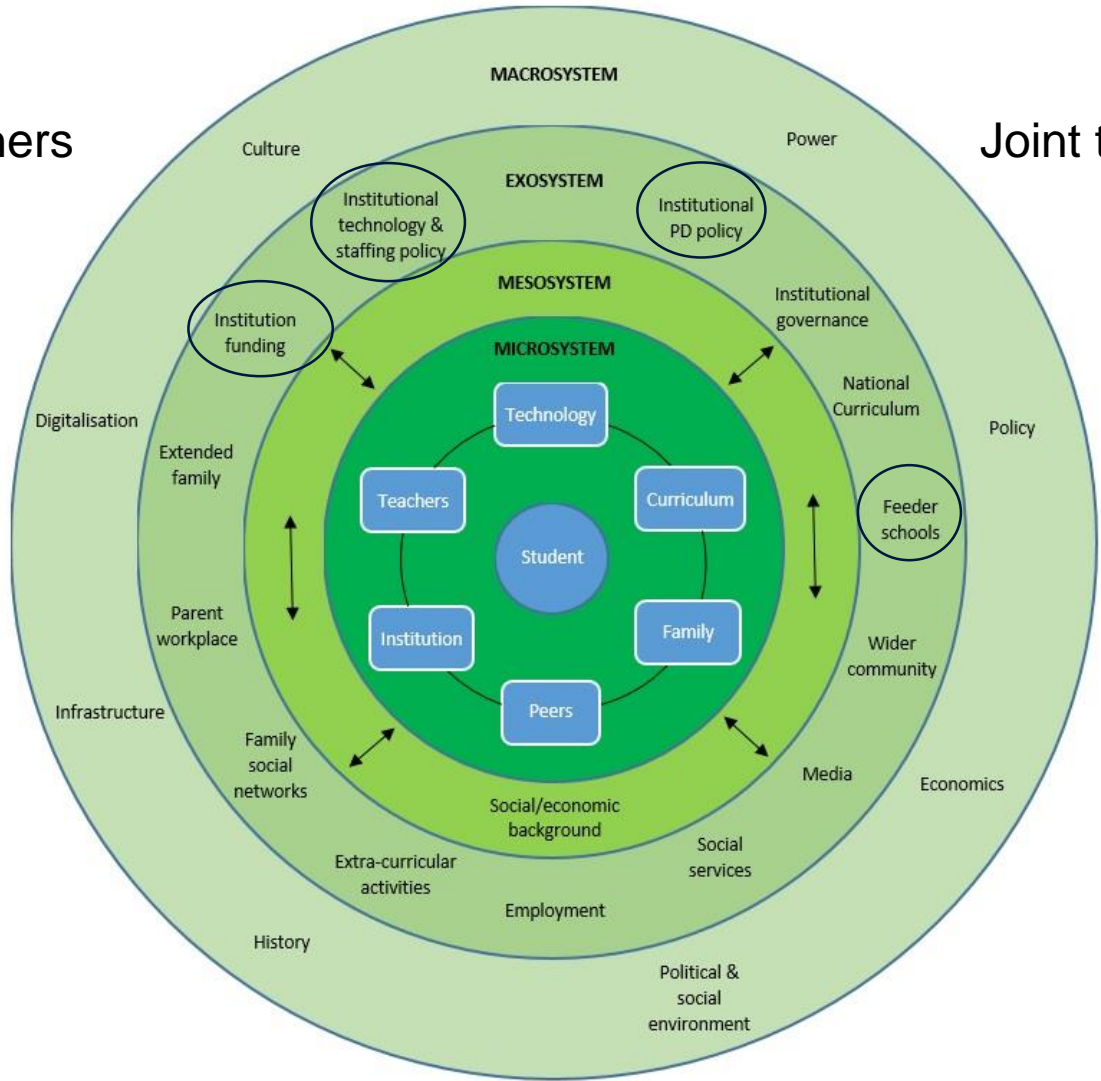
Greater awareness of digital divide

- Government policies
- Contact time
- Professional development

Implications for practice

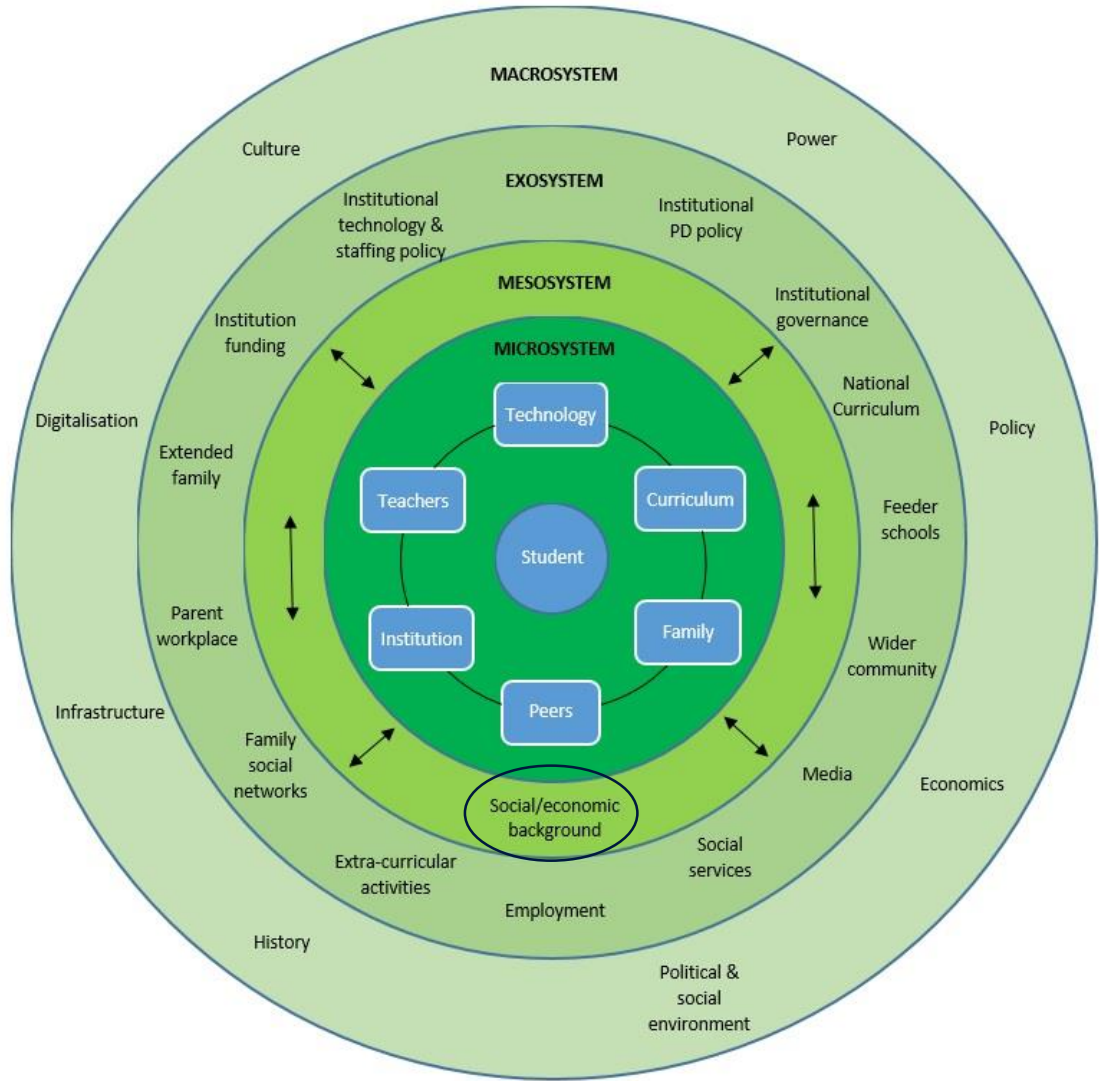
Greater support for teachers

Joint teacher/parent workshops



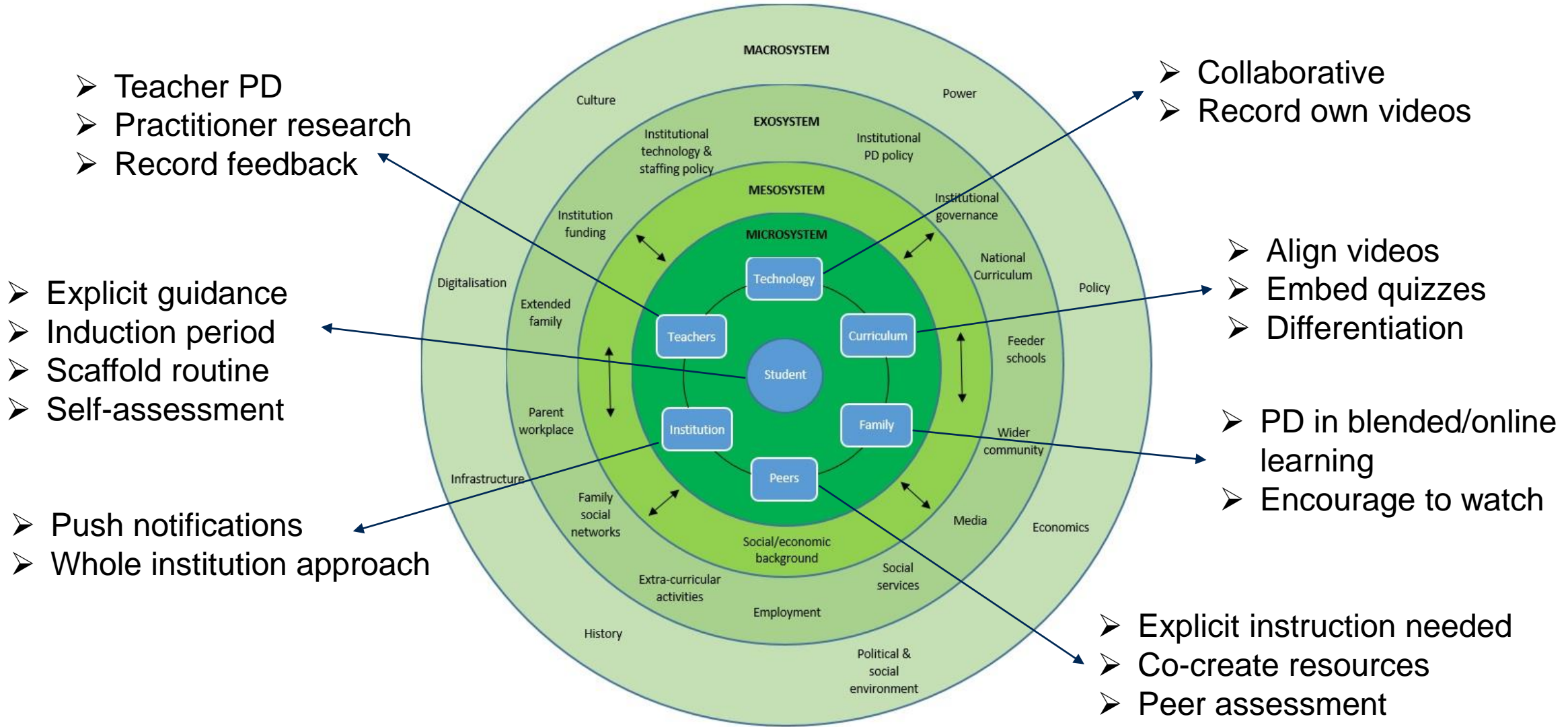
Consider student knowledge/skills

Implications for practice

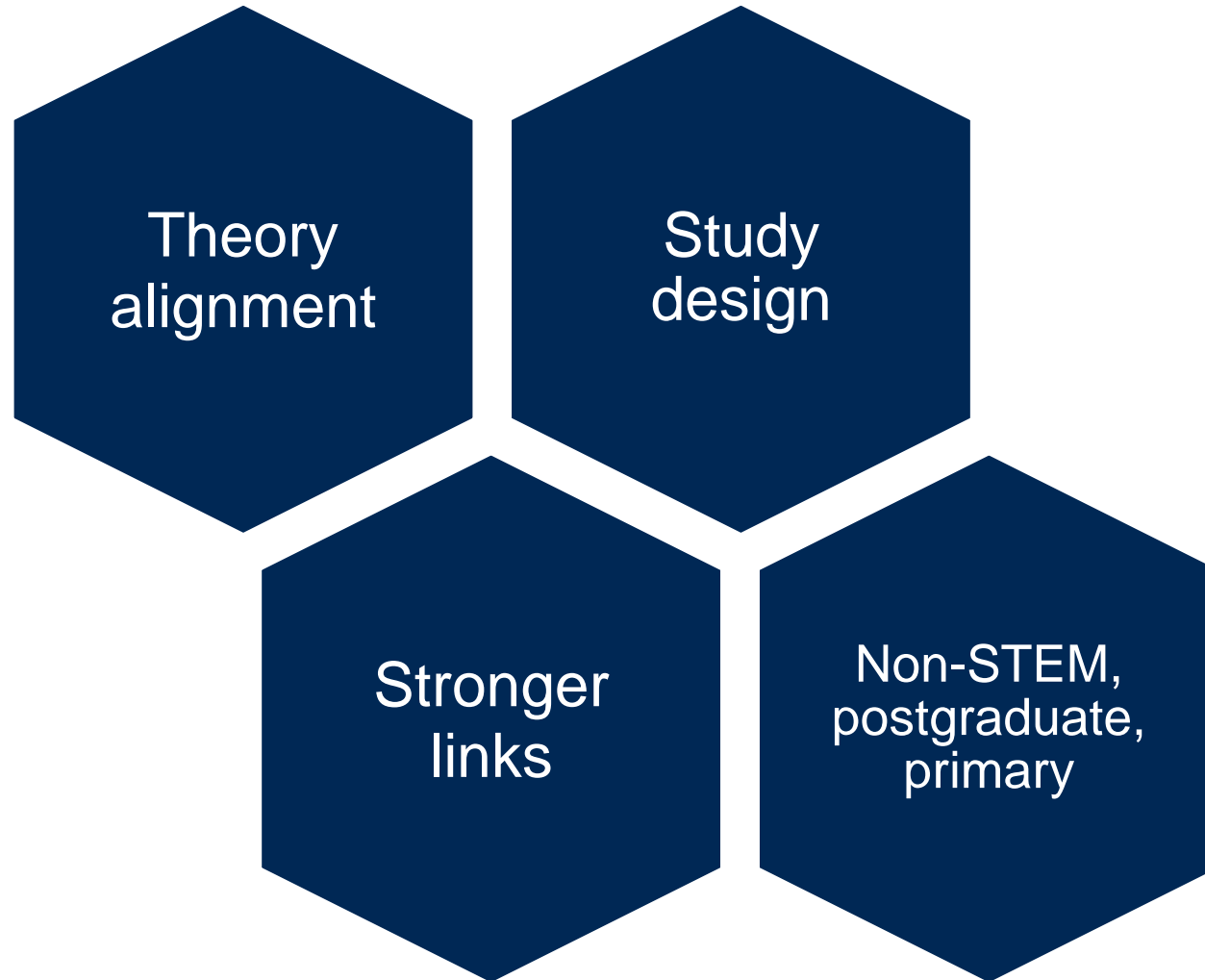


- Needs analysis
- Loan equipment
- Multiple methods

Implications for practice



Implications for research



Questions to ponder

1. Based on your experiences, is there anything in the framework that you think is missing?
2. What were the most influential factors on student engagement during the pandemic for your students?
 - What changes did you make in response, if any?
3. What changes do you think are needed to pre- and in-service teacher training, in regards to digital technology?
4. How would you use this framework and the engagement/disengagement indicators, to inform your teaching and/or research?

Further information

- [Mapping the field of emergency remote teaching in higher education due to COVID-19](#)
- [Schools and emergency remote education during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) – information and interactive evidence gap maps.
- [Schools and ERE during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) – rapid review article.
- [Further information](#) about the IPPO systematic review project.
- Interactive [web database](#) of included studies in the IPPO project.
- [EPPI-Reviewer homepage](#) – sign up to a free one month trial.
- [EPPI-Mapper information](#) – includes links to example maps.
- [EPPI-Mapper app](#)
- [EPPI-Reviewer instructional video](#) on interactive evidence gap maps.
- [EPPI-Reviewer instructional video](#) on how to create an EGM using EPPI-Mapper.
- Information about [using Microsoft Academic Graph](#) within EPPI-Reviewer.

Contact Information

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ResearchGate: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Melissa-Bond-5>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bondmelissa/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EPPIReviewer4>

- Alioon, Y., & Delialioğlu, Ö. (2019). The effect of authentic m-learning activities on student engagement and motivation. *British Journal of Educational Technology*, 50(2), 655–668. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjet.12559>
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