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**Technology Innovations in
K-12 Education**





Who am I?
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What this seminar is and isn't

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- Not a list of digital tools
- Not a list of tips and shortcuts on how to use technology

Instead I want to:

- Make the Familiar strange
- Provide a critical discussion of educational technology and how it fits into wider social contexts
- Make a philosophical stance against top down models of innovation
- Share several 'bottom-up' examples of technology use in RE classrooms
- Participate in a space in which everyone can share ideas
- Start a conversation

What is technology? What is Educational Technology

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‘Technologies are developed and applied so that we can do things not otherwise possible, or so that we can do them cheaper, faster and easier’ (Volti, 1992: 4).

Technology can be anything that extends human capabilities – a sword, a pen, a book.

Here, we're talking about DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:

Hard technologies - computers, screens, mobile devices, cameras etc.

Soft technologies - the Internet, websites, programmes etc.

HOWEVER

The word technology refers to far more than simply machinery or non-human artifacts. It also refers to the **social circumstances** and **social contexts** of the users of such machines and artifacts.



The Internet
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The Internet is more than just a conglomeration of copper wires, fibre optic cables, wireless connections, computers, keyboards etc



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When people talk about the Internet they are usually talking about the activities that they engage in online, the cultures that can be said to surround these social activities and the knowledge that results from these activities



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It is far more useful
to describe the
Internet in terms of
its social ‘content’
rather than its
technical forms
(Wessels 2010)