**Self-Direct to Learn, Self-Direct to Live:**

**Summarizing Eight MOOC Studies in an Increasingly Self-Directed Learning World**

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**Abstract:** Open, online, and distance learning have always relied on a large percent of learners to self-direct their own learning. During the past decade, the emergence of open educational resources (OER) and massive open online courses (MOOCs) made self-directed learning (SDL) more prominent, essential, and celebrated. As would be expected when in a pandemic, the percent of people engaging in self-directed learning pursuits has multiplied. In response, Professor Curt Bonk at Indiana University and Meina Zhu of Wayne State University have conducted a series of studies related to instructional design and SDL in MOOC and OER environments. Their studies include how MOOC instructors design and deliver their courses to foster SDL. On the learner side, Bonk and Zhu’s research includes interviews of 15 MOOC learners regarding their perceptions of SDL when learning from MOOCs. The focus of that study was on the three key components of SDL, namely, self-management, self-monitoring, and motivation.

Key words: self-directed learning, MOOCs, open educational resources (OER), online language learning, motivation

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Description automatically generated**Curtis J. Bonk** is Professor in the School of Education at Indiana University teaching psychology and technology courses. Curt is a former software entrepreneur, CPA, corporate controller, and educational psychologist who presently is an educational technologist, award-winning writer, highly published researcher, statewide and national awardee in innovative teaching with technology, and internationally acclaimed presenter. Dr. Bonk has more than 380 publications and given nearly 1,800 talks around the world. He can be contacted at [cjbonk@indiana.edu](mailto:cjbonk@indiana.edu) and his homepage is <http://curtbonk.com/>.



**Bio:**Meina Zhu is Assistant Professor in the Learning Design and Technology program in the College of Education at Wayne State University. She received her Ph.D. degree in the Instructional Systems Technology program at Indiana University Bloomington and her master’s degree in educational technology at Beijing Normal University. Her research interests include online education, MOOCs, self-directed learning, STEM education, and active learning. Meina has published her work in such places as IRRODL, BJET, the Internet and Higher Education, the Canadian Journal of Learning and Technology, Online Learning, and Distance Education. She has taught courses in instructional design, emerging technologies, instructional strategies, Web design, and the history, issues, and trends in instructional technology. She can be reached at [meinazhuiu@gmail.com](mailto:meinazhuiu@gmail.com) or [meinazhu@wayne.edu](mailto:meinazhu@wayne.edu).