



Transformation by Innovation  
in Distance Education

# Creating Serious Games for Education

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The Transformation by Innovation in Distance Education (TIDE) project is enhancing distance learning in Myanmar by building the capacity of Higher Education staff and students, enhancing programmes of study, and strengthening systems that support Higher Educational Institutions in Myanmar. TIDE is part of the UK-Aid-funded Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR) programme([www.spheir.org.uk](http://www.spheir.org.uk)). SPHEIR is managed on behalf of FCDO by a consortium led by the British Council that includes PwC and Universities UK International. The TIDE project will close in May 2021.



SPHEIR  
Strategic Partnerships  
for Higher Education  
Innovation and Reform



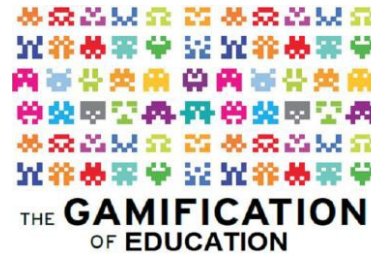
# Educational gaming

**Are you game enough?**  
**Cedric Tan**

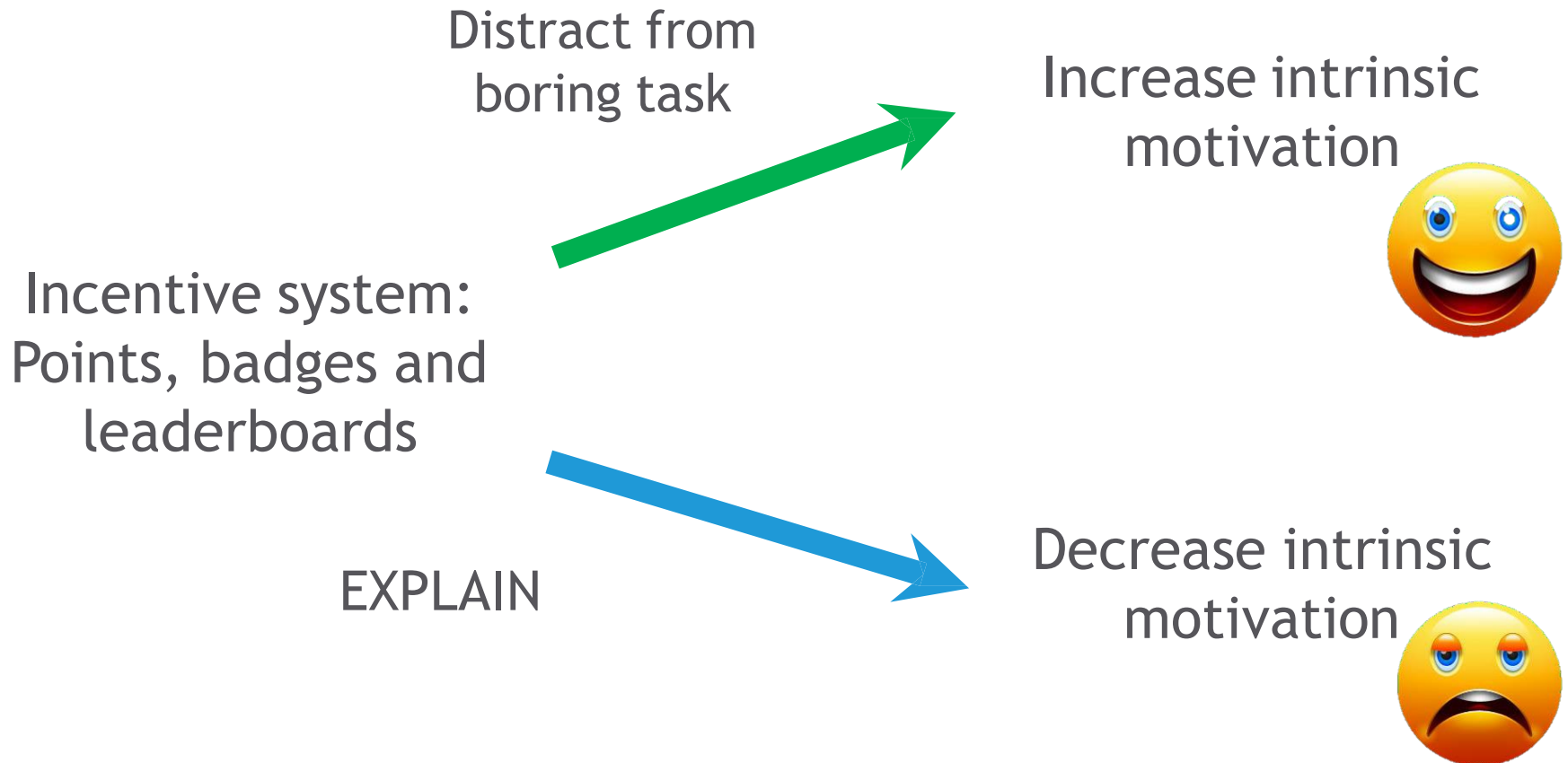


- Why gaming?
- Types of educational games
- Experiential gaming model
- Game mechanics
- Summary

# Current literature



Evidence for its effectiveness depends on type of games



# Why gaming – the elements

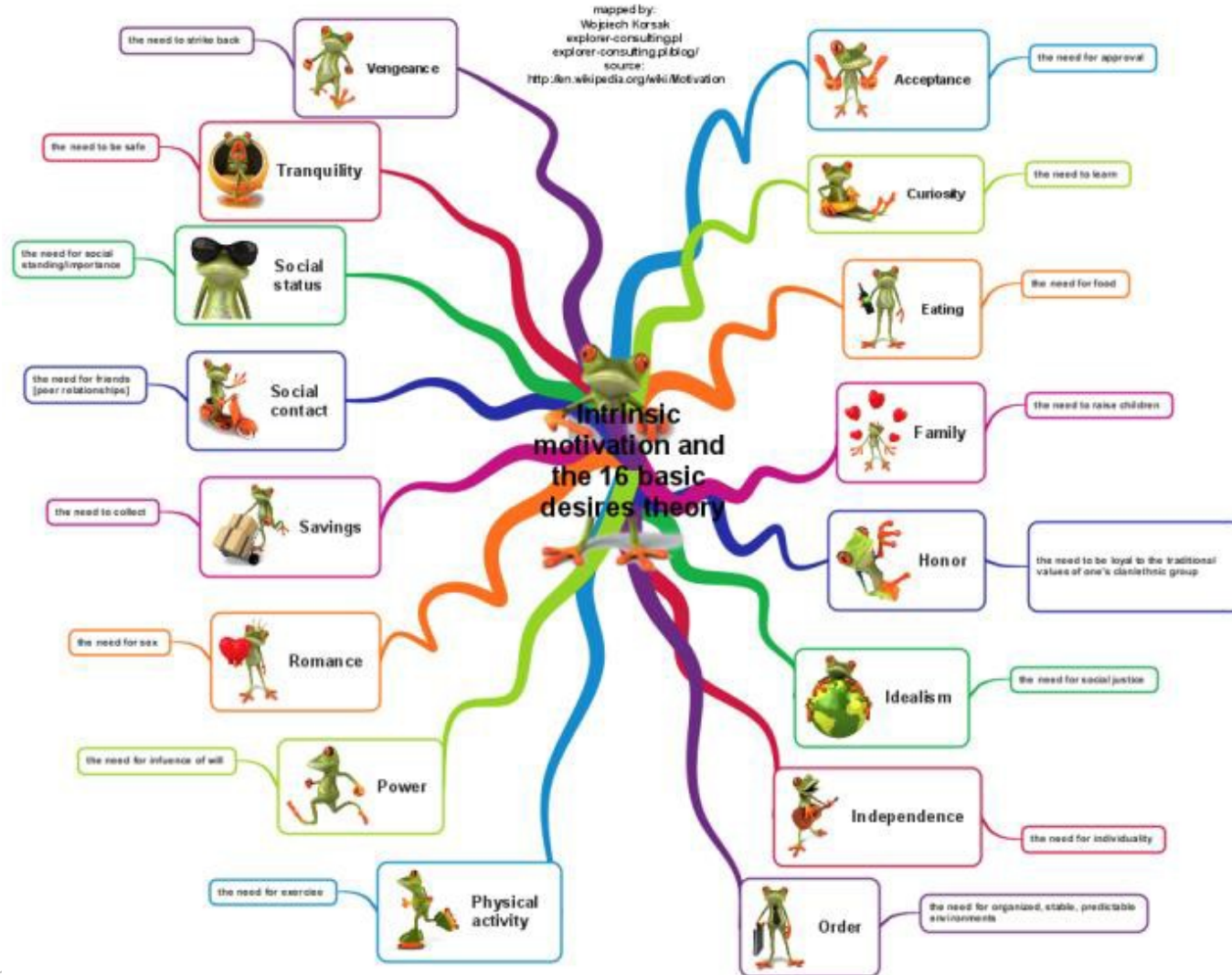


# Why gaming – the elements



When we play games, we experience emotions that feed our basic motivators.

# Why gaming – 16 basic desires





# Why gaming – intrinsic motivators

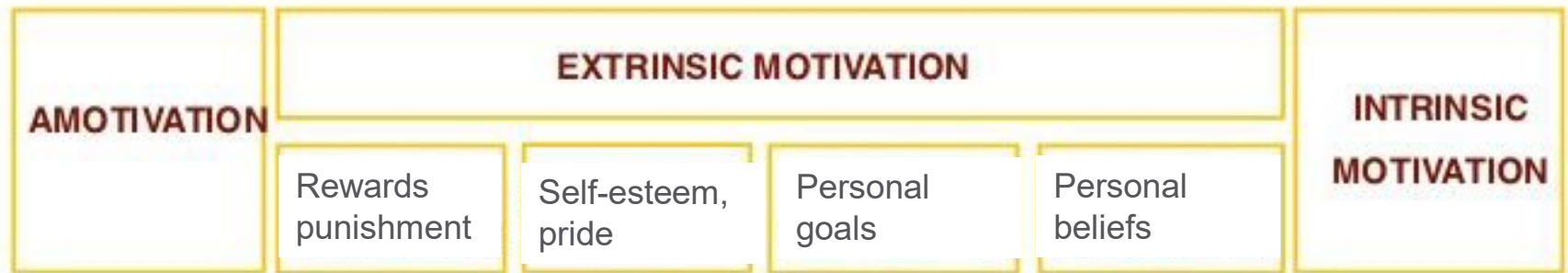
## Self-Determination Theory Deci & Ryan (1985, 2001)





# Why gaming – intrinsic motivators

## Self-Determination Theory Deci & Ryan (1985, 2001)



**internalisation**

**Novelty  
Challenge  
Aesthetics**



# Why gaming – intrinsic motivators

## Summary

### Internalisation



Relatedness Competence Autonomy

### Intrinsic motivators

Novelty  
Challenge  
Aesthetics



# Types of educational games



Based on the learning style:

- Supplemental Games
- Declarative Games
- Procedural Games
- Experiential Games

- Game has no meaningful interaction with subject matter
- Can teach facts
- Good for reproduction-directed learning

# Supplemental Games – Valiant Hearts



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MP8q5F6dFqQ>

- Puzzles [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C\\_NCU-1Dxd4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_NCU-1Dxd4)
- Historical facts and information are available, but not necessarily baked into play

## Drill the subject matter through simple declarative challenges

- Game doesn't consider the subject as a system
- Good for teaching simple relationships (e.g. multiplication tables)
- Great for memorization
- Not good for giving deeper understanding

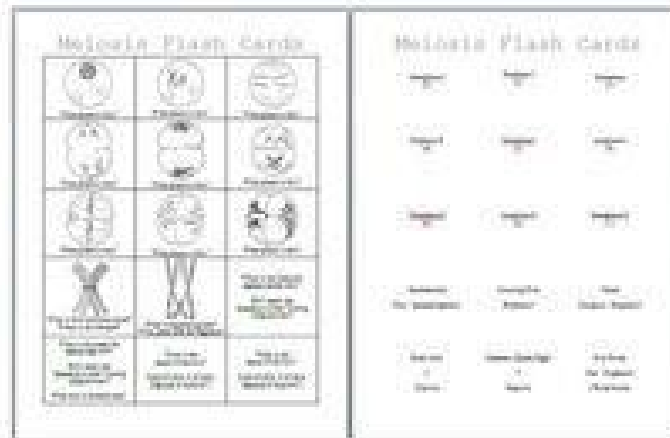


# Declarative Games – Flash cards

## MEIOSIS FLASH CARDS

15 cards; Designed to be printed front and back

A tool to help  
students study  
the important  
concepts and  
phases of  
Meiosis.



<http://www.studystack.com/flashcard-711584>

# Procedural Games

Players learn about the subject matter by performing some aspect of it - i.e. learning by doing or simulating the process

- Game considers the subject as a system
- Great for teaching higher-order skills
- Great for subject matter dealing with processes like Science

# Procedural Games – Go extinct!



Procedure of  
playing teaches  
how to read  
evolutionary trees

Players learn about the subject matter while doing other, related tasks

- Differs from procedural games by not requiring the player to perform an aspect of the subject matter
- Good for teaching complex **cause-and-effect systems** like the History of Science or Economics

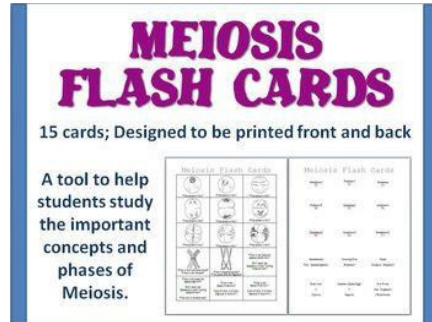
# Experiential Games – The Conservation Casino



- Players are to maintain a heterogeneous population of chips by betting on answers

# Types of games – two broad categories

Supplemental /  
declarative



Procedural /  
experiential



Can you list two  
differences?







# Elements of educational experiential gaming





# The experiential gaming model

Based on:

1. Experiential learning theory
2. Flow theory
3. Game design

# The experiential gaming model

## 1. Experiential learning theory



## 2. Flow theory

The feeling of complete and energized focus in an activity, with a high level of enjoyment and fulfillment

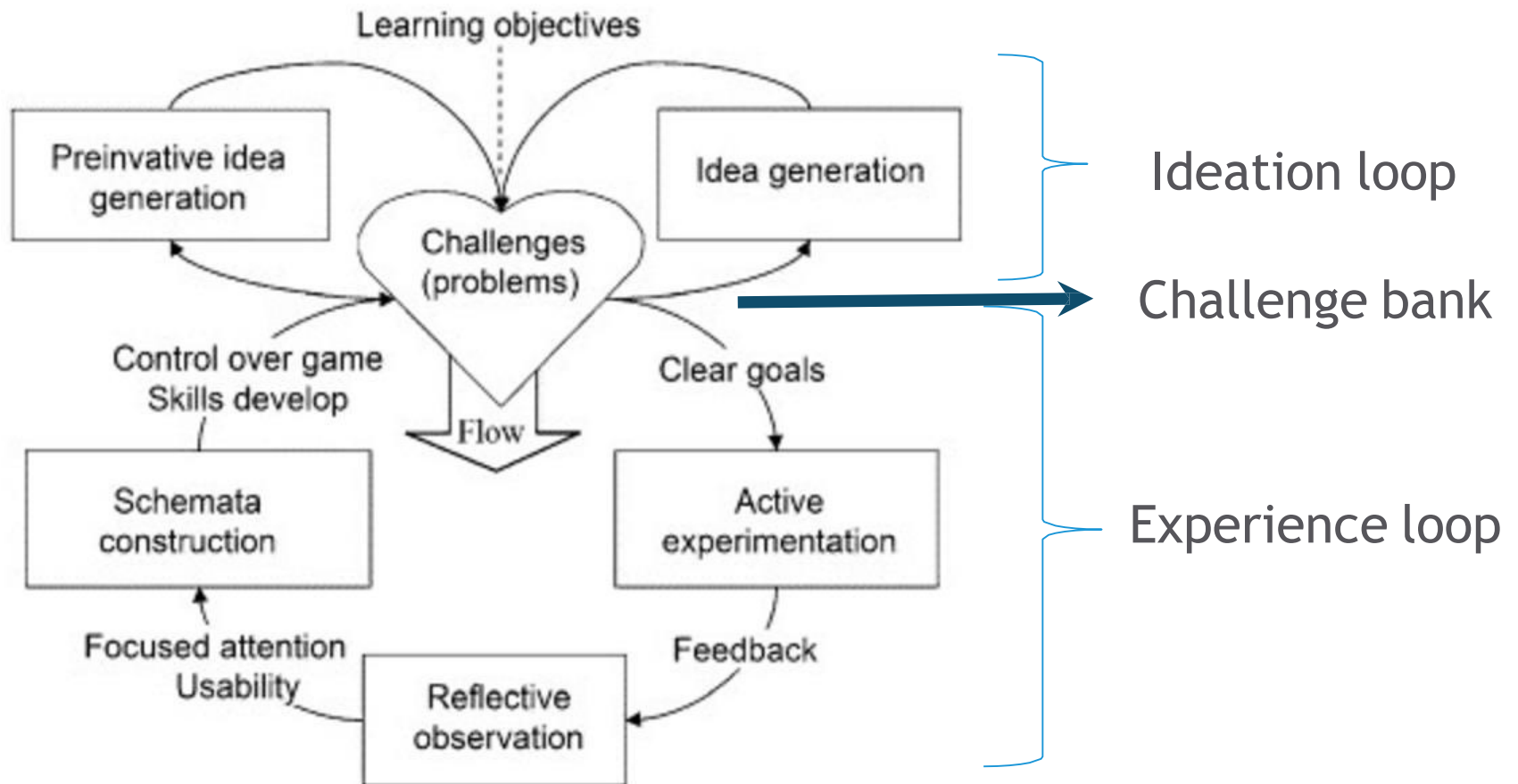
1. We are up to the activity.
2. We are able to concentrate on the activity.
3. The activity has clear goals.
4. The activity has direct feedback.
5. We feel that we control the activity.
6. Our worries and concerns disappear.
7. Our subjective experience of time is altered.

## 3. Game design

- A. Provide a clear goal
- B. Allow multiple paths to reach end-goal
- C. Require participants to take actions or decisions to succeed
- D. Provide feedback on progress

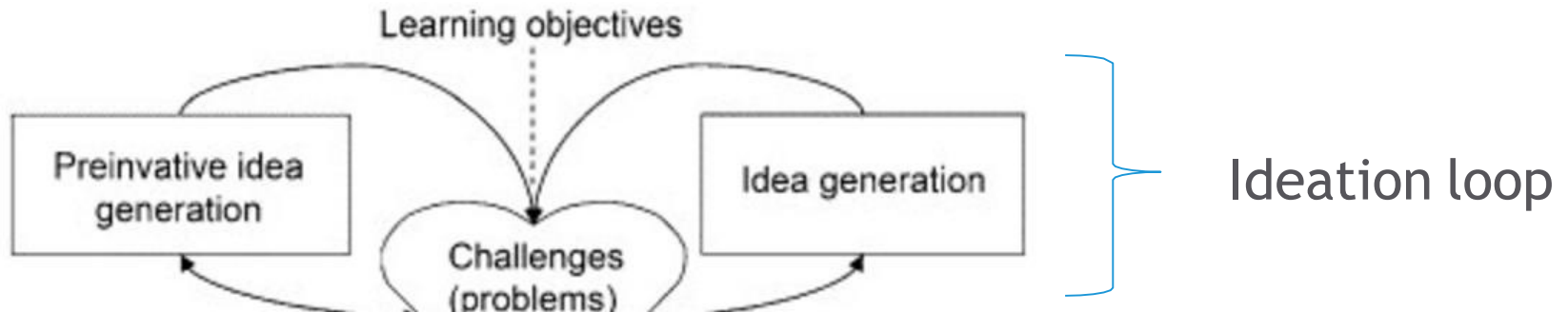
# The experiential gaming model

Main purpose: to link **gameplay** with **experiential learning** to facilitate **flow experience**.



Killi 2005

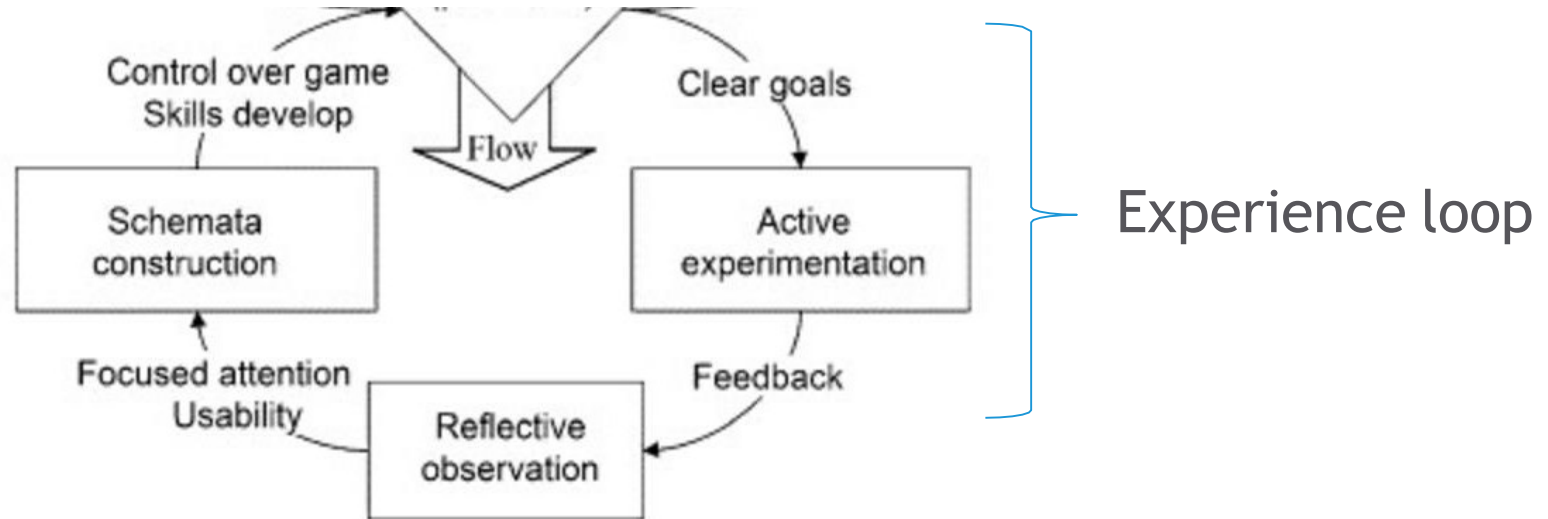
# The experiential gaming model



Generating solutions to overcome challenges

- Preinvative: primary creativity that resembles the play of children
- Idea generation most fruitful in groups

# The experiential gaming model



Test solutions and observe outcome

- Clear goals
- Appropriate feedback
- Important to test different solutions to expand knowledge

Killi 2005



# The experiential gaming model



- Provide challenges that match skill level
- A main challenge with mini-challenges like questions
- Arrange the following question types in increasing challenge.
  - A. Facts
  - B. Application
  - C. Meaning

Killi 2005

i9 presentation to Joe Smith

## Summary

- A. Provide a clear goal
- B. Allow multiple paths to reach end-goal
- C. Require participants to take actions or decisions to succeed
- D. Provide feedback on progress
- E. Match challenge with skill level**
- F. Games reflect real-life scenarios**



# Game mechanics



- Turns
- Action management
- Auction
- Cards
- Capture
- Catch-up
- Dice
- Movement
- Resource management
- Reward
- Saving
- Worker placement
- Game modes



# Game mechanics – What matters

- A. Interactions between groups
- B. Catching-up and mitigation
- C. Give choices
- D. Role-play
- E. Story-telling



# Summary



# What have you learnt?

## Intrinsic motivators

### Internalisation



Relatedness Competence Autonomy

### Intrinsic motivators

Novelty

Challenge

Aesthetics



# What have you learnt?

## Experiential game model

- A. Provide a clear goal
- B. Allow multiple paths to reach end-goal
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# What have you learnt?

## Game mechanics

- A. Interactions between groups
- B. Catching-up and mitigation
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The end!

**Any questions?**

