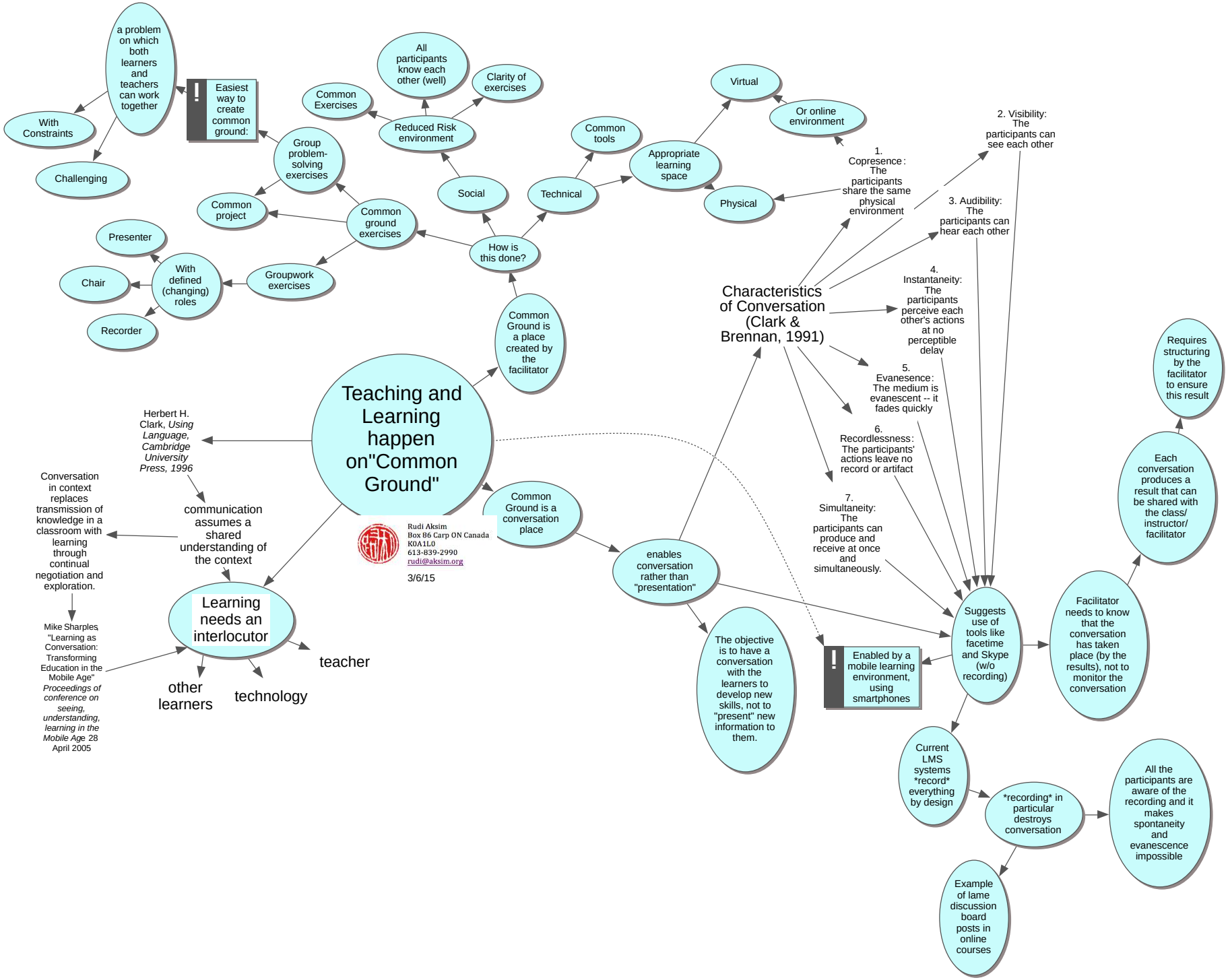
Teaching and Learning happen on"Common Ground"
Common Ground is a place created by the facilitator
How is this done?
Social
Technical
Common tools
Appropriate learning space
Virtual
Or online environment
Physical
Reduced Risk environment
All participants know each other (well)
Clarity of exercises
Common Exercises
Common ground exercises
Group problem-solving exercises
Common project
Groupwork exercises
With defined (changing) roles
Presenter
Chair
Recorder
Easiest way to create common ground:
a problem on which both learners and teachers can work together
With Constraints
Challenging
Herbert H. Clark, Using Language, Cambridge University Press, 1996
communication assumes a shared understanding of the context
Conversation in context replaces transmission of knowledge in a classroom with learning through continual negotiation and exploration.
Mike Sharples "Learning as Conversation: Transforming Education in the Mobile Age" Proceedings of conference on seeing, understanding, learning in the Mobile Age 28 April 2005
Learning needs an interlocutor
teacher
other learners
technology
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Common Ground is a conversation place
enables conversation rather than "presentation"
The objective is to have a conversation with the learners to develop new skills, not to "present" new information to them.
Characteristics of Conversation (Clark & Brennan, 1991)
1. Copresence: The participants share the same physical environment
2. Visibility: The participants can see each other
3. Audibility: The participants can hear each other
4. Instantaneity: The participants perceive each other's actions at no perceptible delay
5. Evanesence: The medium is evanescent -- it fades quickly
6. Recordlessness: The participants' actions leave no record or artifact
7. Simultaneity: The participants can produce and receive at once and simultaneously.
Enabled by a mobile learning environment, using smartphones
Suggests use of tools like facetime and Skype (w/o recording)
Facilitator needs to know that the conversation has taken place (by the results), not to monitor the conversation
Each conversation produces a result that can be shared with the class/ instructor/ facilitator
Requires structuring by the facilitator to ensure this result
Current LMS systems *record* everything by design
recording in particular destroys conversation
All the participants are aware of the recording and it makes spontaneity and evanescence impossible
Example of lame discussion board posts in online courses