

# The Spanish Network of Learning Analytics: Achievements and Challenges

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Achievements
  - SNOLA - A brief historical perspective
  - Current research trends in SNOLA
- Challenges
- Conclusions and open research lines

# Introduction

- Networks or researchers and technology are at the core of any discipline (Latour, 2005)
- LA has grown “as it is” thanks to its networks



- In Spain:

SNOLA

- There is interest in reflecting about the work done and contributions of the network, like in Papamitsiou, Giannakos, & Ochoa, (2020).

Papamitsiou, Z., Giannakos, M., and Ochoa, X. (2020). **From childhood to maturity: Are we there yet?: Mapping the intellectual progress in learning analytics during the past decade**, in *Proceedings of LAK 2020*

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# Goals and method

- Goals:
  - What has been the trajectory of the network?
  - What are the main research goals of its members?
  - What are the challenges in the field according to its members?
- Method
  - Review of archival data
  - Open ended questionnaire to the members of the network
  - Further elaboration with the respondents

Martínez-Monés, A., Dimitriadis, Y., Acquila-Natale, E., Álvarez, A., Caerio-Rodríguez, M., Cobos, R., Conde-González, M. A., García-Peñalvo, F. J., Hernández-Leo, D., Menchaca, I., Muñoz-Merino, P. J., Ros, S., y Sancho-Vinuesa, T. (2020). **Achievements and challenges in learning analytics in Spain: The view of SNOLA**. *RIED. Revista Iberoamericana de Educación a Distancia*, 23(2), (preprint).

# Outline

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  - **SNOLA – Overview**
  - Current research trends in SNOLA
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## SNOLA - Members

A map of Spain and Portugal is shown with blue location pins indicating the locations of SNOLA members. The map includes labels for various cities and regions, such as A Coruña, Santiago de Compostela, Pontevedra, Ourense, Vigo, Porto, Coimbra, Lisbon, Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria, Basque Country, Navarre, Aragon, Catalonia, Valencia, Balearic Sea, Alboran Sea, Gibraltar, Tangier, and Morocco. The map is surrounded by logos of member organizations, with blue lines connecting them to their respective locations on the map.

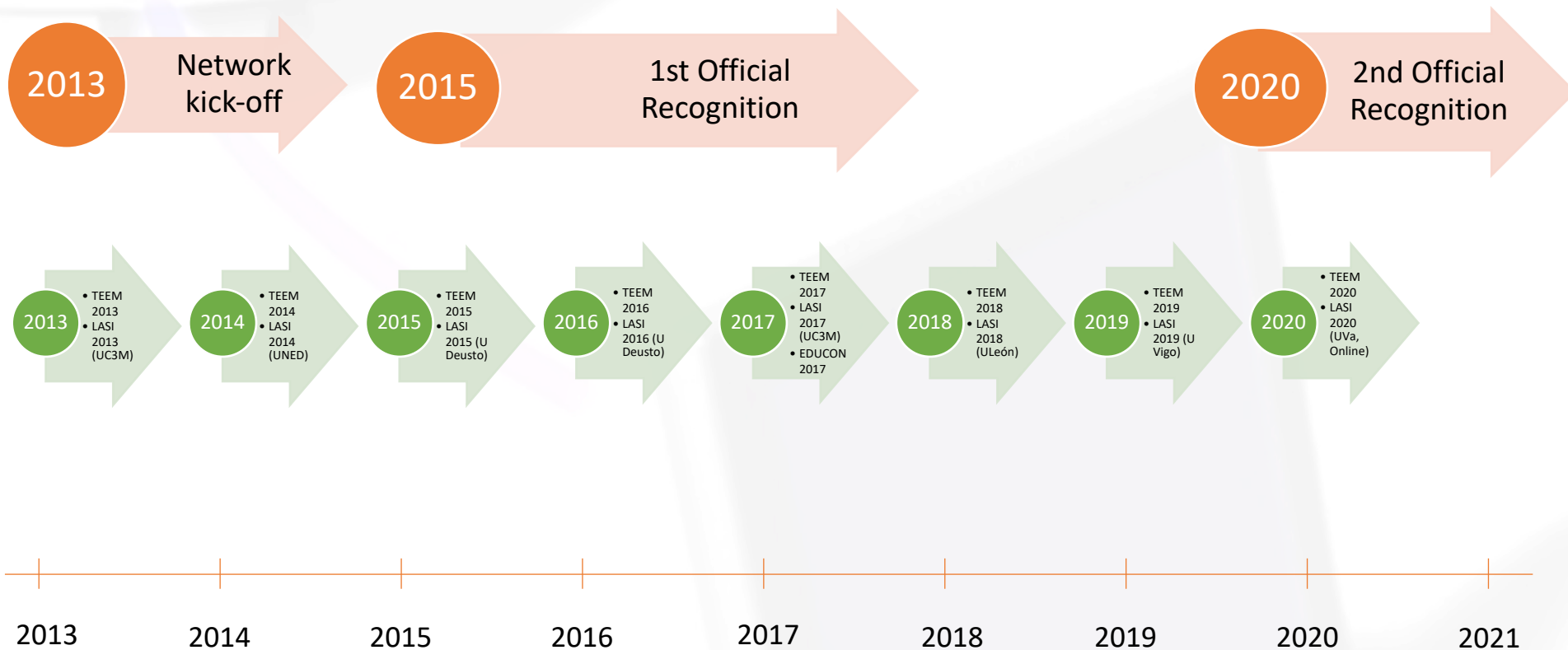
**Members and their locations:**

- Deusto Learning Lab Ingeniería** (Bilbao)
- GA LAN** (Bilbao)
- GIST** (Vigo)
- GRUPO DE ROBÓTICA** (Vigo)
- GSIC-EMIC** (Lisbon)
- GRUPO DE SISTEMAS INTELIGENTES Y COOPERATIVOS** (Lisbon)
- GRIAL** (Lisbon)
- TIGÉ** (Madrid)
- GHIA** (Seville)
- GRUPO DE HERRAMIENTAS INTERACTIVAS AVANZADAS** (Seville)
- Gradient** (Valencia)
- BigDataLab** (Valencia)
- LAIKA** (Barcelona)
- upf. TIDE** (Barcelona)

**Page Information:**

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- 6
- eMadrid [www.emadridnet.org](http://www.emadridnet.org)

# SNOLA - History



# SNOLA - Collaborations

- Open to other groups and stakeholders at a local and international level

LASI Spain 2017 is organized by Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M), Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) with the collaboration of SNOLA (Spanish Network of Learning Analytics) and eMadrid on July 4-5 at UC3M Puerta de Toledo Campus.



Rebecca  
Ferguson  
The Open  
University

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Hendrik Drachsler  
Open University of the Netherlands



Marina Umaschi Bers  
Tufts University



Katrien Verbert  
KU Leuven



Dragan Gasevic  
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[VIEW ALL SPEAKERS](#)



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# Current research trends

- Analysis of the open questionnaire
- Main results
  - Characterization of the network
  - Identification of 7 (non-orthogonal) research trends
- General characteristics
  - 34 distinct research lines
  - Goals (most cited):
    - Increase learner retention and performance (26)
    - Improve the quality of the learning environment (16)
    - Identify indicators for learning / elements of the learner model (7+4)
  - 7 research trends

# Research Trends

## Predictive learning analytics

S: Student  
T: Teacher  
R: Researcher  
M: Manager  
ID: Instructional designer



Research line	Publication	User(s)	Data source	
Prediction of learning results and dropout	(Moreno-Marcos et al., 2020)	S / T / M	Students' actions (MOOC)	Random Forest, Regression, Neural Networks, Decision Trees
Identification of engineering students at risk	(Martínez et al. 2019)	S / T	Students actions (Moodle and Virtual Campus)	Predictive analysis
Prediction of learning results and dropout	(Cobos & Olmos, 2018)	T / M	Students actions (MOOCs)	Predictive analytics, Machine Learning, Statistical analysis
Actionable information based on prediction of academic engagement in MOOCs	(Bote-Lorenzo & Gómez-Sánchez, 2018)	S / T	Students' actions (MOOC)	Feature selection, Machine Learning
Analysis and classification of student data with prediction purposes (Interactions)	(Agudo-Peregrina et al., 2014)	T / M / R	Student's actions (Moodle)	Log data classification, Regression
Educational data mining	(Guerrero-Higueras et al., 2019)	S / T	Students actions (Version system)	Machine Learning
Definition of high-level actionable indicators based on low level data.	(Alexandron et al., 2017)	S / T	Students' actions (MOOC)	Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence Techniques, Semantic modelling, Heuristics

**DROPOUT PREDICTION**

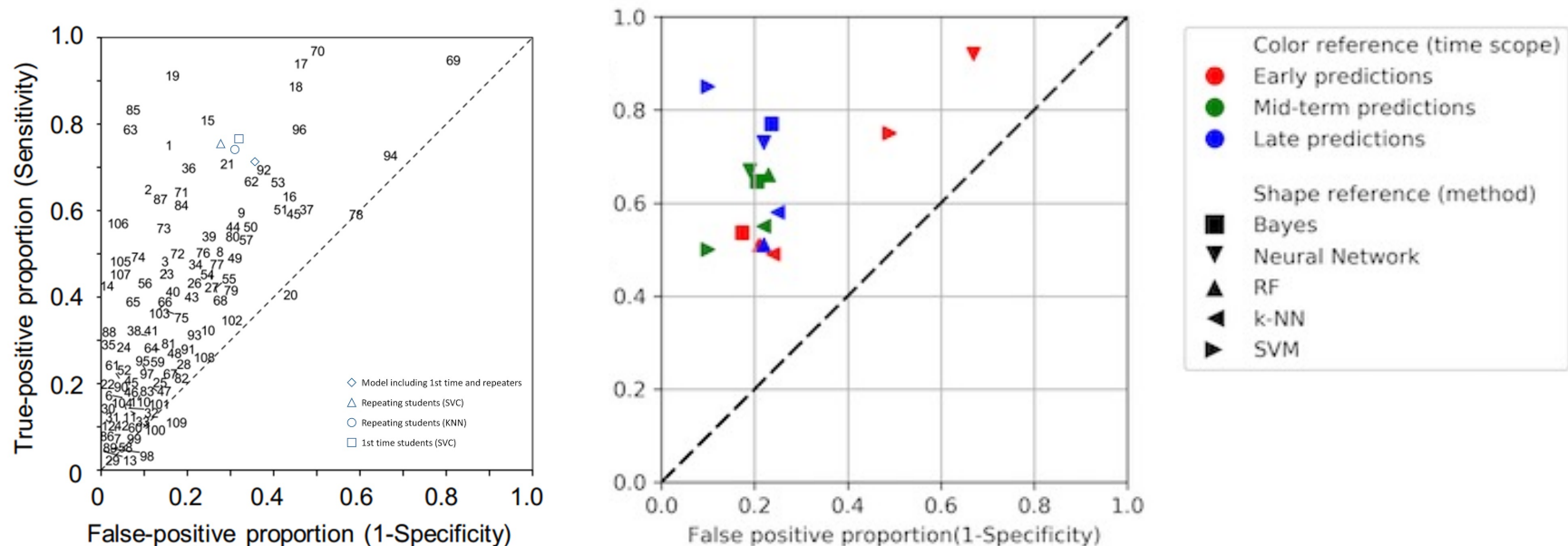
- Self-paced MOOCs:  
Model depend on enrollment date
- Event-based SRL variables are useful to predict dropout
- Good predictions from 25-33% of the theoretical MOOC duration

**DATA USE to PREDICT**

- Videos ✓
- Exercises ✓
- Activity ✓
- Self-regulated learning (SRL)
  - Self-reported SRL ✗
  - Event-based SRL ✓
- Demographics and intentions ✗



- Identification of engineering students at risk



# Research Trends

## Visual analytics

Research line	Publication	User(s)	Data sources	Analysis techniques
Visual analytics of eLearning systems (VeLA)	(Gómez-Aguilar et al., 2014)	T	Students' actions on the VLE, Grades	Visual analytics
LA Dashboards for virtual labs	(Tobarra et al., 2014)	S	Platforms logs	Heuristics
Visual Analytics of students' actions	(Ruipérez-Valiente, et al., 2015)	S / T	Students' actions on the system (MOOC)	Visual analytics
LA Dashboard for MOOCs	(Cobos et al., 2016)	T / M	Students' actions on the system (MOOC), grades, demographics, self-reported data	Descriptive Statistics
Visualization of peer and self-assessment data in Moodle (MWDEX)	(Chaparro-Peláez, et al., 2019)	T	Peer-assessment grades (Moodle Workshops)	Visual Analytics
Automatic generation of adapted dashboards	(Vázquez-Ingelmo et al., 2019)	S / T / M / R	-	Multi-Dimensional Analysis (MDA), ML
Graph generation of educational data in online learning for social network analytics (GraphFES)	(Hernández-García & Suárez-Navas, 2017)	T / M	Student activity (Moodle log data- Forums)	Social Network Analysis, Data visualization



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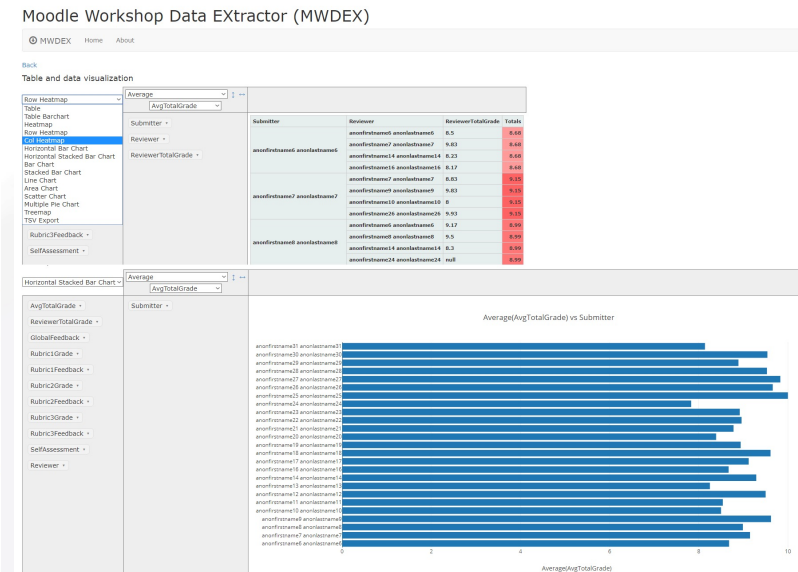
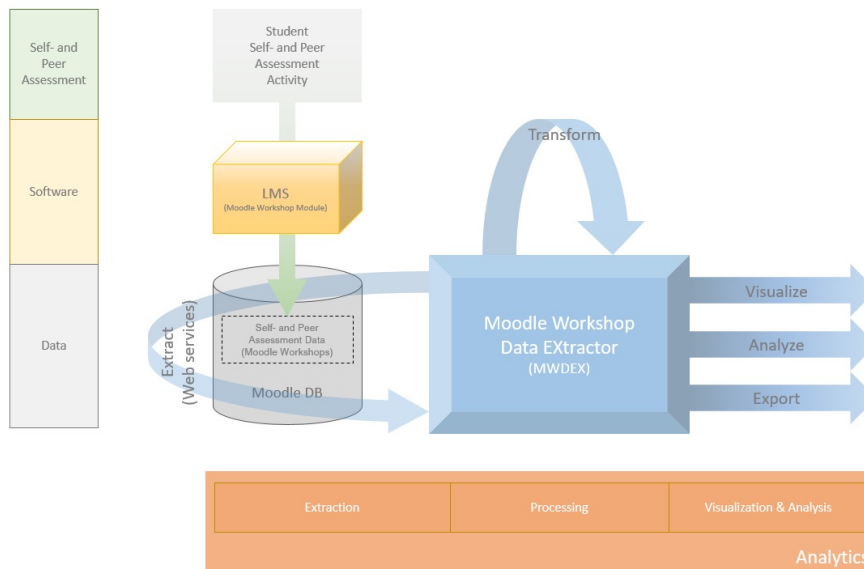


# Research Trends

## Visual analytics



- Visualization of peer and self-assessment data in Moodle – Moodle Workshop Data EXtractor (MWDEX)

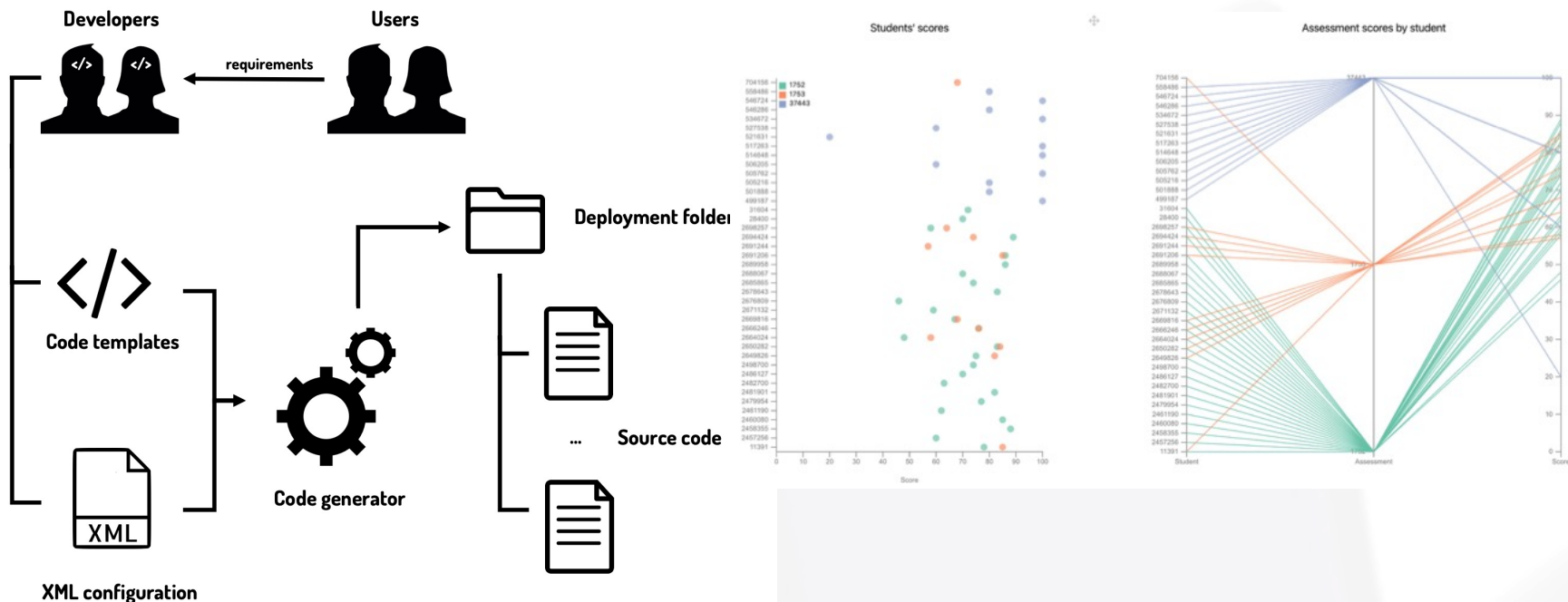




## Research Trends Visual analytics



- Automatic generation of adapted dashboards



Vázquez-Ingelmo, A., García-Peñalvo, F. J., & Therón, R. (2019). Taking advantage of the software product line paradigm to generate customized user interfaces for decision-making processes: A case study on university employability. *PeerJ Computer Science*, 5. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj-cs.203>

# Research Trends

## Support to active learning strategies

Research line	Publication	User(s)	Data sources	Analysis techniques
Orchestration of collaborative learning activities (PyramidApp)	(Amarasinghe, et al., 2019)	S / T	Actions on PyramidApp: progress in the activity, answers to the tasks, students' discussions	ML, descriptive statistics, data visualization
Adaptive learning based on user models	(Muñoz-Merino et al., 2018)	S / T	Students' actions on the system (Intelligent Tutoring Systems)	Bayesian networks, rules, Item Response Theory.
Support to dialogic peer feedback (Synergy)	(Er et al., 2019)	S / T	Students actions on the system, content of the feedback,	Descriptive statistics
Social learning supported by learning analytics	(Claros et al., 2015)	S / T	Students actions on the system (content and social)	SNA, CSCL
Learning analytics to improve Flipped Classrooms	(Rubio-Fernández et al., 2019)	S / T	Students' actions on the system (SPOC)	Visual analytics, clustering, adaptation
Definition of design criteria for self-regulated learning support tools	(Manso-Vázquez, et al., 2018)	M	xAPI profile	-



# Research Trends

## Support to active learning strategies



- Supporting the scalability of collaborative peer feedback
  - Based on a model of dialogic peer feedback
  - Instructor dashboards for class-wide interventions
  - Student dashboards for supporting:
    - Self-regulation, co-regulation, and socially shared regulation of learning.
  - LA-empowered online platform:
    - Synergy, synergylearn.net



# Research Trends

## Learning analytics for Learning Design

Research line	Publication	User(s)	Data sources	Analysis techniques
Support to learning design processes (ILDE2)	(Michos, Hernández-Leo, & Albó, 2018)	T	Actions on ILDE2, (a kind of social network for teachers), feedback on teachers' and students	Social Network Analysis (SNA), data visualization, descriptive statistics
Learning analytics for learning design (OrLA, T-Glade, TAP)	(Wiley, Dimitriadis, Bradford, & Linn, 2020)	T / R	Students actions on the system (WISE science inquiry system); submission of results; grades	TAP (an NLP method)

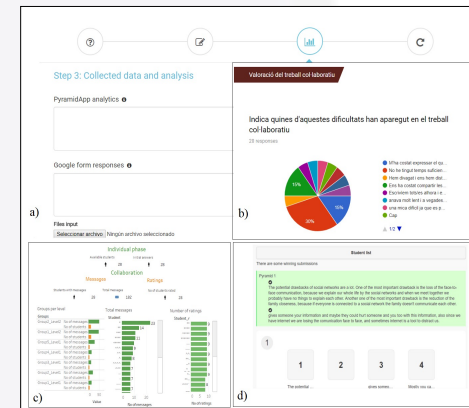
## Research Trends LA for Learning Design



- How can teachers investigate the impact of learning activities in their context (e.g. schools)?
- An approach that connects LA with analytics of learning designs across multiple educators in a community



- Technology supporting teachers:
  - Design of learning activities
  - Formulation of inquiries
  - Collecting, aggregating visualizing data
  - Community sharing, community inquiry



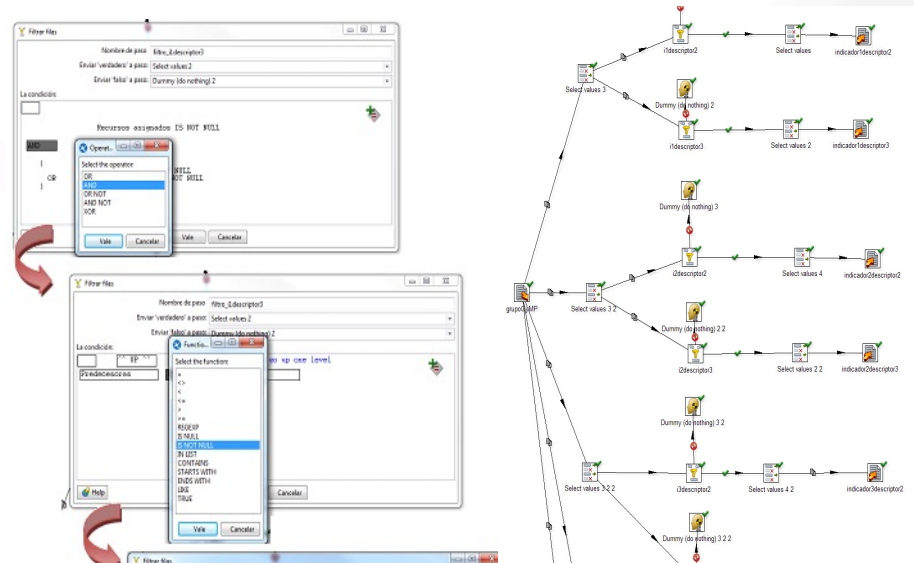
# Research Trends

## Assessment support

Research line	Publication	User(s)	Data sources	Analysis techniques
Definition and adjustment of assessment processes (Ramon / TEA)	(Villamañe et al., 2017)	S / T / ID	Students' answers, grades	Statistics, Regression, NNLS, Data visualization
→ Learning analytics for the assessment of 21st-century skills	(Menchaca et al., 2018)	S / T	Grades	Heuristics
Analysis of Moodle logs for decision making and workgroup assessment	(Tobarra et al., 2017)	S / T	MOOC platform logs	Heuristic
→ Workgroup assessment	(Conde et al., 2018)	S / T	Students' actions on the system (VLE)	Quantitative analysis and heuristics
Measurement and analysis of teamwork indicators in online education (TeamworkRM)	(Hernández-García et al., 2018)	T	Students' actions (Moodle log data-Forums & wikis)	Data classification (ETL), Regression

## Research Trends Assessment support

- Assessment of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
  - Integrate formative student assessment data from different tools
  - Criteria for data analysis based on assessment rubrics.



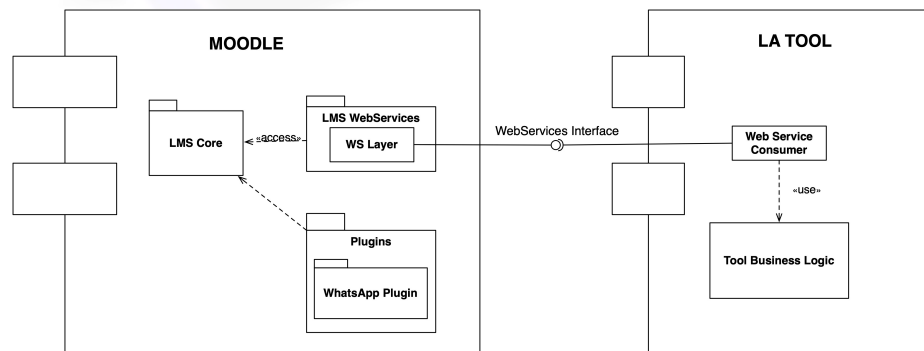




# Research Trends

## Assessment support

- Assessment of teamwork to populate a competence ontology



DNI del alumno: 72455638F	Usuario de WhatsApp: Pedro
DNI del alumno: 71245644V	Usuario de WhatsApp: +34 618 56 32 25
DNI del alumno: 85678633X	Usuario de WhatsApp: Alex Clase
DNI del alumno: 71400577Q	Usuario de WhatsApp: Carlos C
DNI del alumno: 73888323Z	Usuario de WhatsApp: +34 629 45 19 66
<input type="button" value="Seleccionar archivo"/> Chat de What...rup05 SO.txt	<input type="button" value="Enviar"/>

Porcentaje de mensajes largos de la discusión: 45%

Número de mensajes cortos por usuario: 43.75

Número de mensajes largos por usuario: 35.25

Show 10 entries

Nombre de la discusión	Fecha de creación	Mensajes	Mensajes cortos	Mensajes largos	Vistas
BUSQUEDA MIEMBRO RESTANTE	2018/12/05 19:27:05	5 (1.58%)	5 (1.58%)	0 (0%)	34
CREACION Y REPARTO DE TAREAS	2018/12/17 11:20:35	24 (7.59%)	17 (5.38%)	7 (2.22%)	108
ELECCION COORDINADOR DEL GRUPO	2018/12/05 19:16:11	8 (2.53%)	8 (2.53%)	0 (0%)	61
EVOLUCION PRÁCTICA	2018/12/18 13:26:50	83 (26.27%)	34 (10.76%)	49 (15.51%)	317
MISION Y OBJETIVOS	2018/12/11 14:27:42	18 (5.7%)	11 (3.48%)	7 (2.22%)	105
NOMBRE DEL GRUPO	2018/12/11 14:14:56	8 (2.53%)	7 (2.22%)	1 (0.32%)	44
REPARTO DE TRABAJO Y CREACION WIKI	2018/12/11 13:59:14	20 (6.33%)	15 (4.75%)	5 (1.58%)	92
TAREA 1. MAIN	2018/12/19 23:27:29	19 (6.01%)	14 (4.43%)	5 (1.58%)	66
TAREA 3: ACCIONES USUARIO	2018/12/19 23:30:15	47 (14.87%)	24 (7.59%)	23 (7.28%)	185
TAREA 4: ACCIONES FACTURADOR	2018/12/19 23:30:54	45 (14.24%)	20 (6.33%)	25 (7.91%)	164

Showing 1 to 10 of 12 entries

### Resultados evaluación sumativa

Show 10 entries

Nombre	Apellidos	Mensajes	Mensajes cortos	Mensajes largos
Diego	Elvira Benavente	64 (20.25%)	44 (13.92%)	20 (6.33%)
Diego	Benavente Benavente	77 (24.37%)	41 (12.97%)	36 (11.39%)
María	María Victoria	68 (21.52%)	31 (9.81%)	37 (11.71%)
Diego	Diego Benavente	107 (33.86%)	59 (18.67%)	48 (15.19%)

Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries

Conde, M. A., Colomo-Palacios, R., García-Peñalvo, F. J., & Larrucea, X. (2018). Teamwork assessment in the educational web of data: A learning analytics approach towards ISO 10018. *Telematics and Informatics*, 35(3), 551–563.

<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tele.2017.02.001>



# Research Trends

## Multimodal and contextual data

Research line	Publication	User(s)	Data sources	Analysis techniques
→ Students monitoring in blended learning environments (CASA, AdESMuS)	(Villamañe et al., 2020)	S / T	Grades	Statistics, Linear Regression, Data visualization
Multimodal learning analytics of f2f collaborative learning	(Vujovic & Hernández-Leo, 2019)	T / R	Multimodal data, motion capture, EDA, sound, students' self-reported data	ML, statistic analysis
→ Use of wearables to estimate levels of stress and sleep quality.	(de Arriba-Pérez et al. 2018)	S	Biometric signals	ML
Design-aware learning analytics (GLUE!-CASS, Glimpse)	(Rodríguez-Triana et al. 2015)	T	Students actions on the system (DLE), data from the learning design, self-reported data	Heuristics

## Research Trends

# Multimodal and contextual data

- Helping teachers to
  - Define the multiple assessment approaches in a course
  - Integrate and analyze the collected data

**EXAMPLE COURSE**

Student:

Assessment Approach:

Items to assess:  Weight: 70%

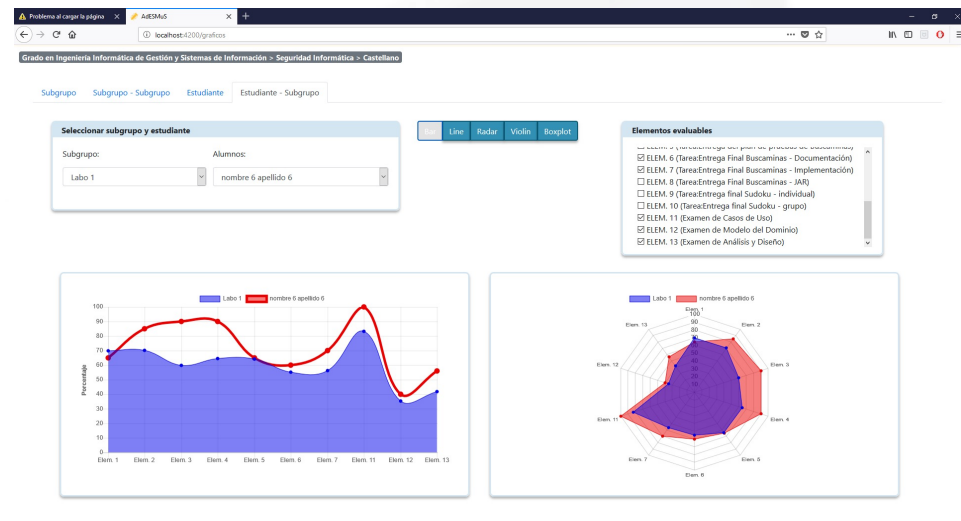
Description  
Initial report with the plan and economic evaluation for the project. It also includes the risk management plan and the calendar.

Source:

	A	B	C
Objectives' description	Very clear	Average	Confusing
Use of language	Very appropriate	Adequate	Poor
Organization	Very clear	Average	Confusing

Computed Grade: 8.0

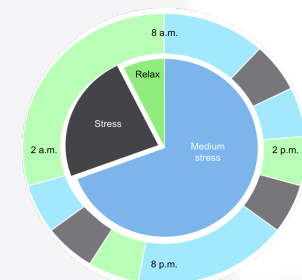
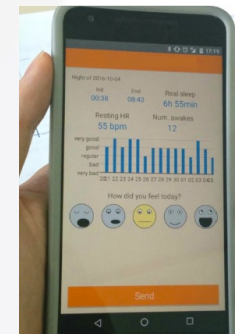
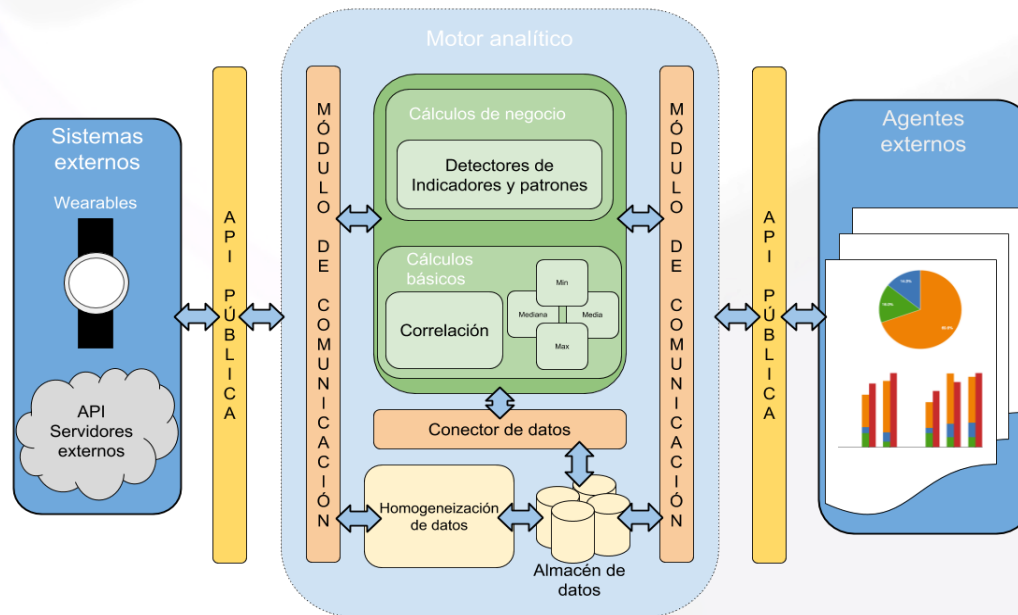
Feedback  
The work is quite good



## Research Trends

# Multimodal and contextual data

- Do sensors in wearables provide adequate data to estimate stress and sleep quality?



de Arriba-Pérez, F., Caeiro-Rodríguez, M., & Santos-Gago, J. M. (2018). How do you sleep? Using off the shelf wrist wearables to estimate sleep quality, sleepiness level, chronotype and sleep regularity indicators. *Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing*, 9(4), 897–917. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12652-017-0477-5> <sup>27</sup>

# Research Trends

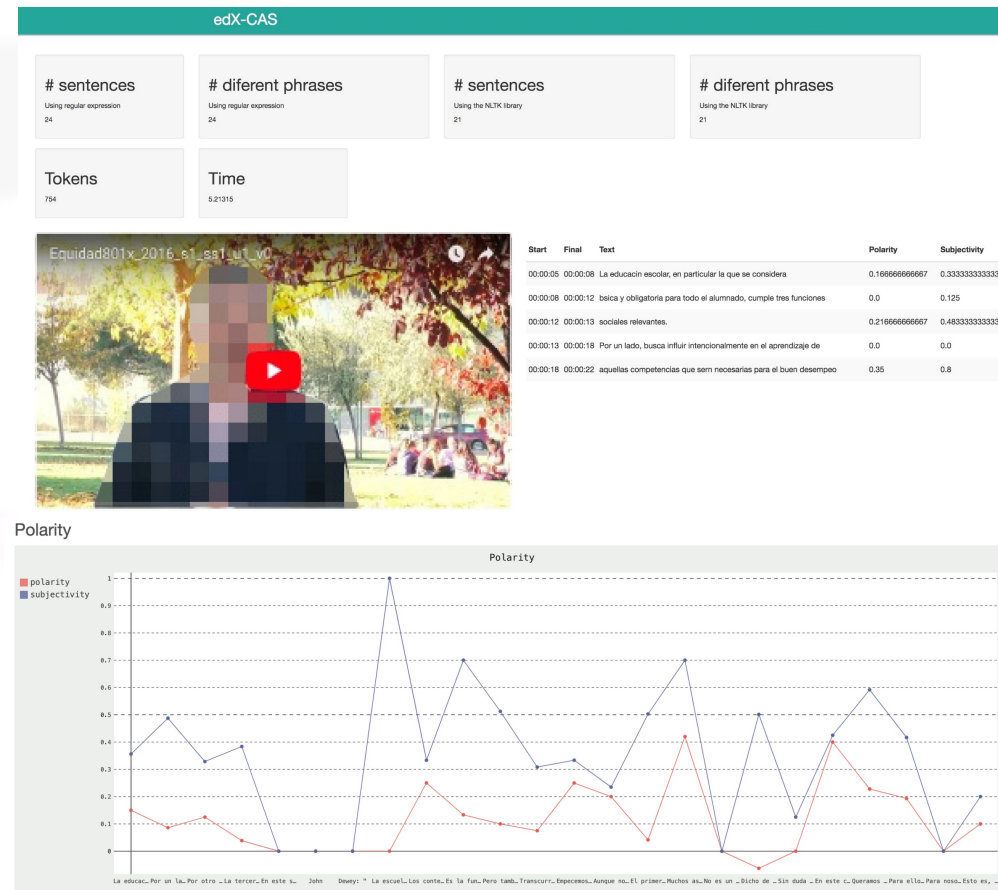
## Sentiment analysis

Research line	Publication	User(s)	Data sources	Analysis techniques
Social and sentiment analysis	(Ros et al., 2017)	S / T	Forum messages	Heuristics
Academic success prediction based on emotion modelling (PresenceClick)	(Ruiz et al., 2018)	S / T	Sensors, self-reported emotions	Transition matrix, Decision trees, Data visualization
Sentiment Analysis	(Cobos et al., 2019)	T / M	Student. actions on the system (MOOCs), MOOC contents	Descriptive analytics, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Sentiment Analysis



## Research Trends Sentiment analysis

**edX-CAS**  
A Content  
Analysis System  
that supports  
Sentiment  
Analysis for  
Subjectivity and  
Polarity detection  
in Online  
Courses at edX



**Cobos, R, Jurado, F., & Blázquez-Herranz, A. (2019). A Content Analysis System that supports Sentiment Analysis for Subjectivity and Polarity detection in Online Courses. IEEE Revista Iberoamericana de Tecnologías Del Aprendizaje, 14(4), 177–187. <https://doi.org/10.1109/rita.2019.2952298>**

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# Challenges

- Increase adoption by end users (8)
- Ethical, privacy, and security issues (7)
- Quality of process and the results (6)
- Increase personalization / adaptation / interoperability of data and tools (5)
- Improve real learning (5)
- Apply LA at an institutional level (5)

# Conclusions & Open research lines




- SNOLA has maintained sustained levels of activity and boosted research in LA in the Spanish context
- This work provides a first overview of the activity of SNOLA, its research trends and interests
- New research lines are open
  - Contribute to international reflection on current trends and challenges in LA
  - Identification of gaps and challenges to drive future action



# Thanks on behalf of all the SNOLA team!



# SNOLA

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