Thanks for your reply Tegan, to answer your question about privacy and the influx of technology, in my opinion there is no happy medium in data gathering and the widespread use of edtech. From my perspective, educational tools that would be paid for by institutions are necessarily involved in manipulation of data that would benefit students or the institution.I believe software developers with the aim of being applied widely by educational institutions must engage in some sort of data gathering in order to accomplish that.

It's interesting you find it comfortable interacting in online forums, I think I find it difficult to foster community in an online environment because it lack personal connection to other individuals in more than replying to one another in an online forum. It took me very long to type out how I felt accurately for you, and I still find it difficult to believe that my tone would translate being limited by word counts, tone of voice, self-location, context, really.

I think discussion forums and further writing, let alone to one another in an online discussion feels very permanent, and it can be so 'referable' that it inherently lacks tone, feeling and context.

Absolutely, I felt like my community was lessened because I was unable to interact with people, and to this day I think extended periods of quarantine have affected people in ways we couldn't have imagined.