4 - Digital Resources for Science Teaching and Learning | Empirical

SP - (15734) - MAKING CONNECTIONS TO COVID: STUDENTS' SENSEMAKING ABOUT PREVENTION AND BEHAVIOR IN A VIRTUAL EPIDEMIC

Colby Tofel-Grehl (United States of America)[1]; Deborah Fields (United States of America)[1]; Yasmin Kafai (United States of America)[2]; Amanda Strawhacker (United States of America)[3]; Tyler Hansen (United States of America)[1]; Michael Giang (United States of America)[4]

1 - Utah State University; 2 - University of Pennsylvania; 3 - Tufts University; 4 - Cal Poly Pomona

Short Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic made plain the need for youth to learn about and understand infectious disease epidemiology. While some citizens engage with scientific understandings and opt to wear masks and engage in social protective measures, others demonstrate a lack of understanding or valuing of science as it relates to their daily lives. This paper shares findings from student reflections as they engaged and wrote about their experiences in the Whyville virtual world SPIKEY-20 epidemic. Students drew connections between their understanding of COVID-19 and their actions within the SPIKEY-20 virtual world. Understanding how students engage science in personal decision making is central to developing materials and supports for developing a scientifically literate populace.