

# Getting Mobile: a critical challenge for the higher education classroom

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# The presentation

Current settings for the higher education classroom have at the most, just as a side actor, the use of mobile devices.

This presentation defends the need to reconsider the use of mobile devices, like laptops but mostly smart phones as an active element in the teaching and learning process.

This move will follow the trends that millennials and other young generation has already adopted to use and explore smart phone in their daily life.

As so, traditional settings are not getting update and the higher education, in many situations, have not take into consideration that change.

We believe that is critical and the time to adopt and integrate use and exploration of mobile devices is now.

# Higher education classroom

- Traditional environment based on a close **space** and a given **time** to **group** a small number of people on a given **topic** with predetermined **goals**
  - Space now must be open
  - Time now needs to adapt to each individual needs
  - The number of people involved now tends to be the higher the better
  - Close topics and degrade in a multidisciplinary world where open topics foster creativity and innovation and thus knowledge
  - It is also the time to acomodate diversity and a more problem based orientation than goals orientation

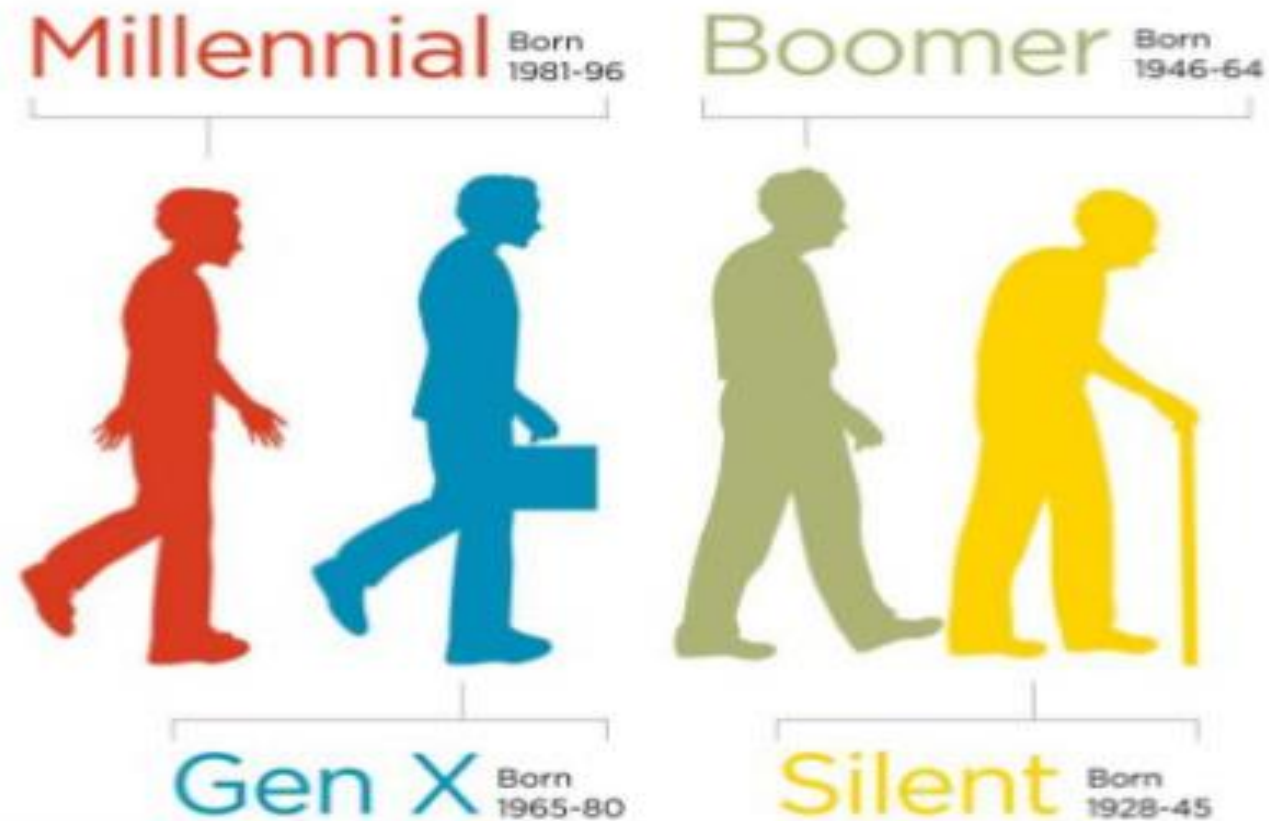
# Must be said: the classroom is no more the place to transmit knowledge

- Higher education can still be similar to past centuries layouts, with classroom configuration been a surprisingly recognizable in many old images

But it changes and evolve

- Not any more a place of just transmitting knowledge but to also promotes its structured discovering
- Blend the lab and the lecture together, reinventing the power rules for teacher(s) and students
- Promotes the discussion and more equal roles between teaching and learning (take into account an information and digital world)
- Take advantage of available technologies for a more quality learning space

Different generations, diferente flavours?  
Yes, but all we are now in a global digital society...



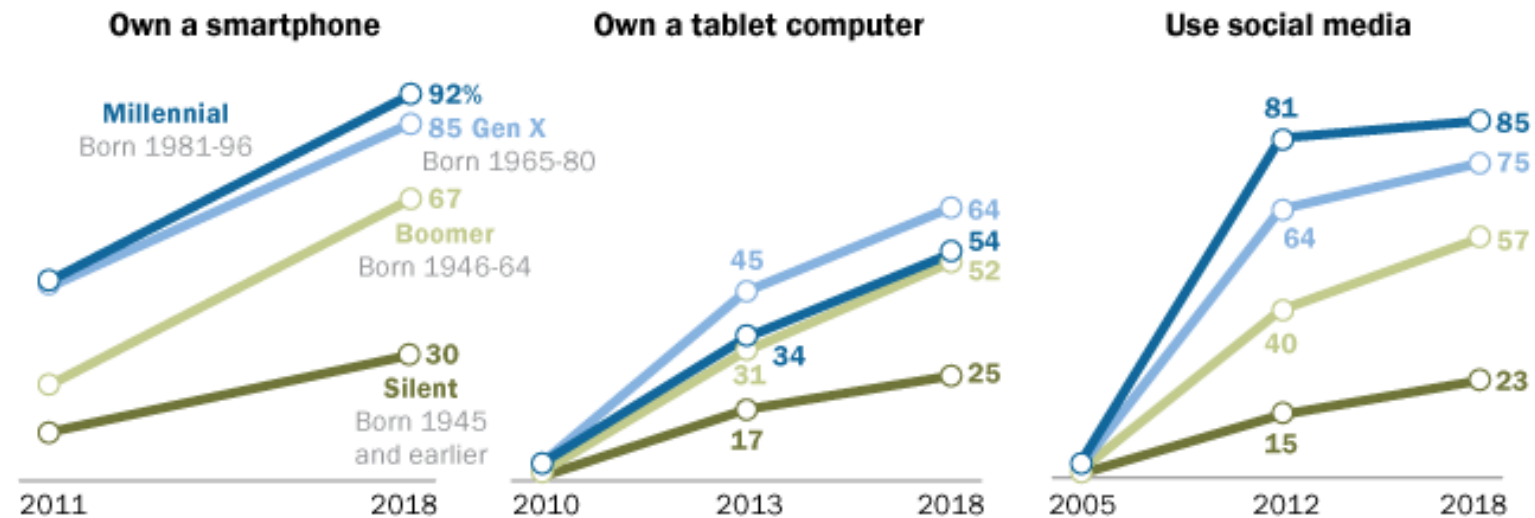
Fuente: [The Dallas Morning News](#)

<https://universoabierto.org/2018/06/01/los-millennials-se-destacan-por-su-uso-de-la-tecnologia-pero-las-generaciones-mas-mayores-tambien-adoptan-la-vida-digital/>

# Millennials stand out for their technology use, but older generations also embrace digital life

## Millennials lead on some technology adoption measures, but Boomers and Gen Xers are also heavy adopters

% of U.S. adults in each generation who say they ...

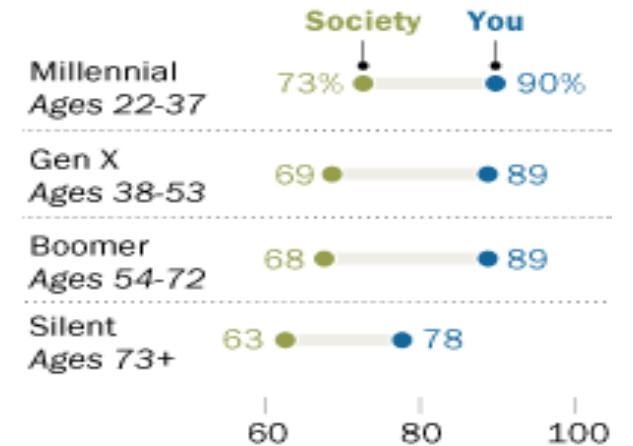


Source: Survey conducted Jan. 3-10, 2018. Trend data are from previous Pew Research Center surveys.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Older internet users less likely to view the internet as a positive for society

% of U.S. internet users who say the internet had mostly been a good thing for ...



Note: Include responses from internet users only.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 3-10, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Jinging Jiang. Millennials stand out for their technology use, but older generations also embrace digital life. *Teens, Social Media & Technology 2018*. Washington D. C.: Pew Research Center, 2018

# Millennials, a digital and social media networked generation

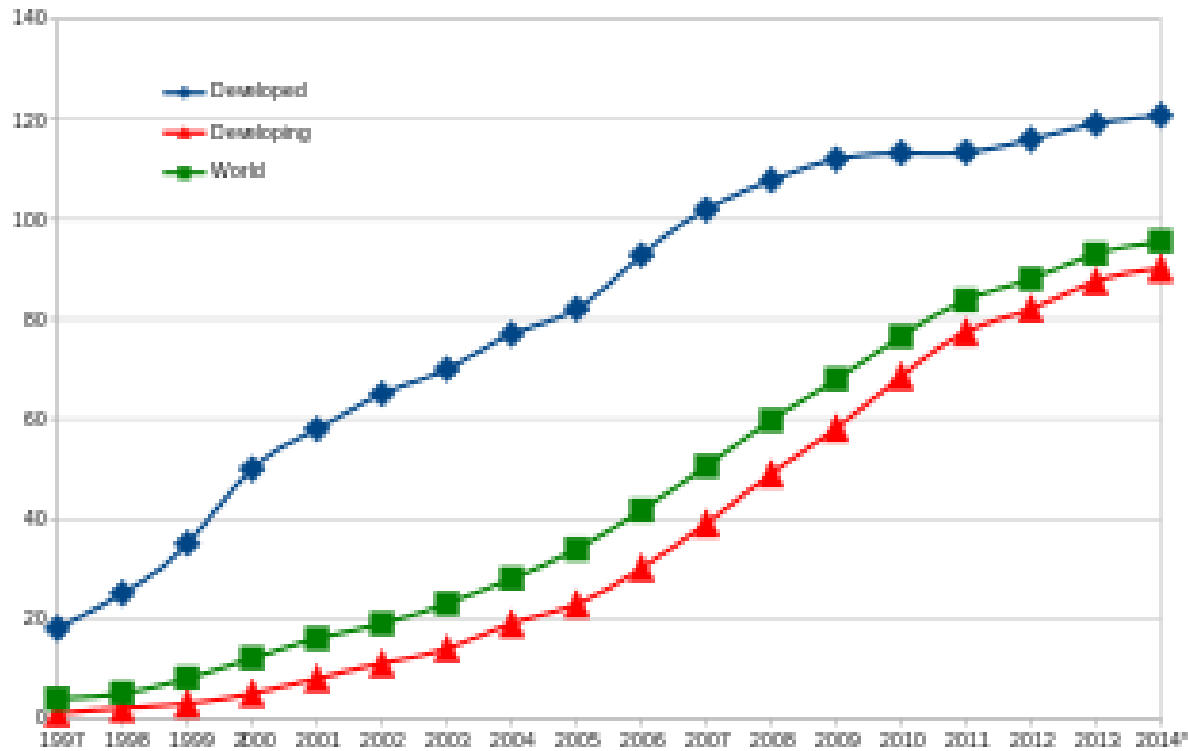
- Millennials, loosely defined as a person reaching young adulthood around the year 2000 – or anyone between the ages 18-34 in 2015, recently surpassed Generation X to become the largest share of the workforce and represent 30 percent of total retail sales
- Millennials support brands that make a personal connection with their consumers and are open to fan influence



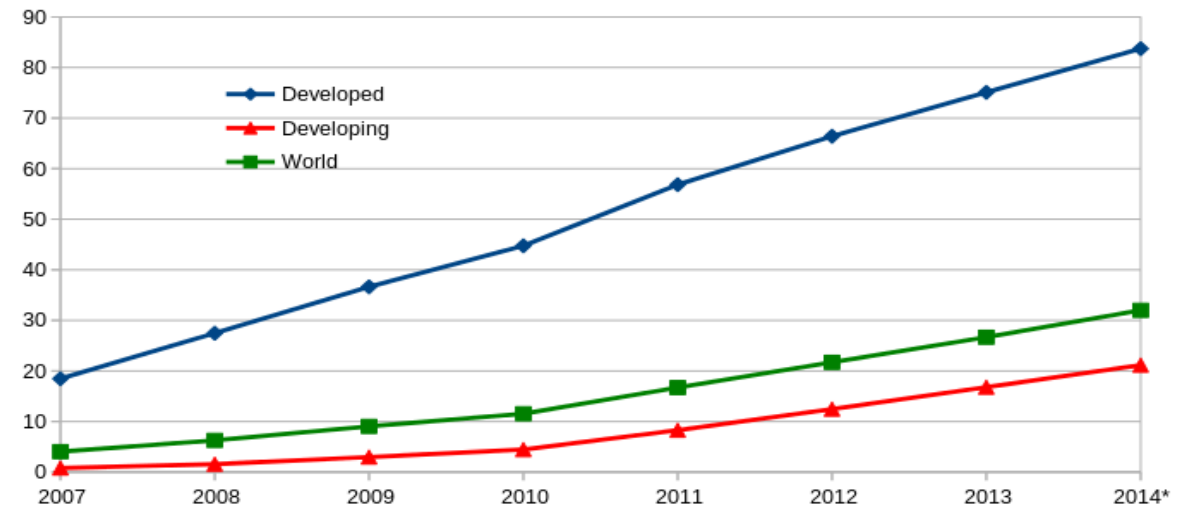
<https://pprww.com/millennials-want-to-be-marketed-with-not-to/>

ITU statistics show that the use of mobile phones are almost universal, placing this device as a counterpart to the paper and pencil (not the same for information access)

Mobile phone subscribers per 100 inhabitants 1997-2014



Active mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants



Nowadays, there is a heavy use of mobile phone everywhere but not at the classroom

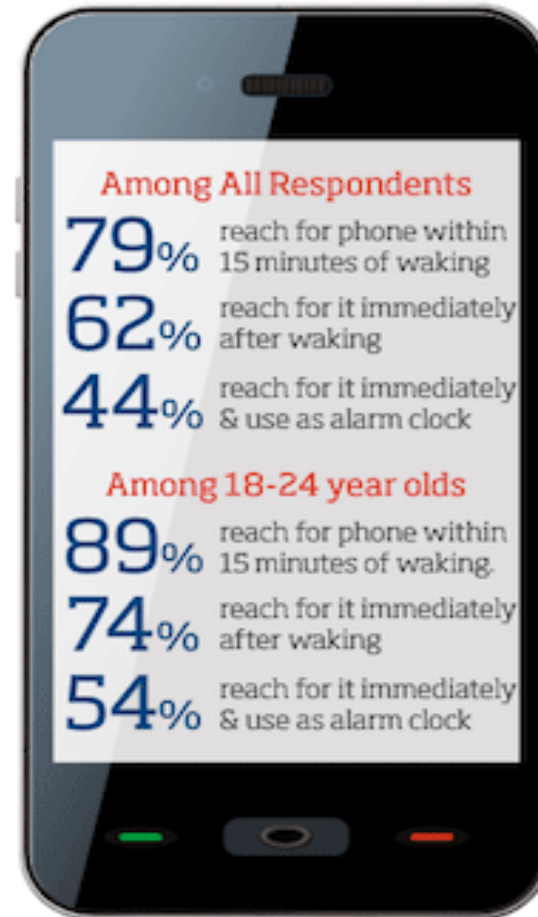
*make any sense not to explore them also for teaching and learning?*

## What Do You Do When You First Wake Up?

Our interaction with each other through our phones begins as soon as we awake. Within the first 15 minutes of waking up, **4 out of 5** smartphone owners are checking their phones and among these people, nearly 80% reach for their phone before doing anything else. These statistics alone drive home the utility of and reliance on smartphones.



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# Students and the use of mobile devices

from a 2015 study over college and grades 4-12 studies (the next higher education population)

- Students of all ages think tablets will **transform learning**
- A **disconnect** exists between college **students' expectations** of the potential of tablets for learning, and how much they actually use them
- Elementary, middle and high school **students are learning with tablets**
- Mobile device preference **depends** on students' age and stage.
- Students own smartphones, but **don't generally view them as learning tools.**
- Access to Wi-Fi at home approaches 100 percent for all students

# For a strategy to foster the use of mobile devices in the higher education classroom

- Train the teaching side (and also the way school sees mobile devices role)
- Train the student side (to them perceive the smart phone learning potential)
- Rethinking the teaching and learning strategies
- Reshape the classroom organization
  - **space | time | group | topic | goals**
- It is liked that in near future, lots of changes will occur in the settings of a higher education classroom
  - Those can be planned or not...
  - ...and the smart phone can take part on it

# Final remarks

- Use and exploration of mobile devices can be a valuable research topic in order to support the digital transformation of the higher education classroom
- A number of questions arise:
  - How can we explore existent available facilities from both smart phones and wireless networks within the classroom?
  - What are the applications that can support teaching and learning?
  - What strategies need to be adopted to take advantage of the use of mobile devices within the classroom?
  - How can we support teachers to develop the competences to use mobile devices in their classroom activity?
  - How can we measure the success of adopting mobile devices within the classroom?