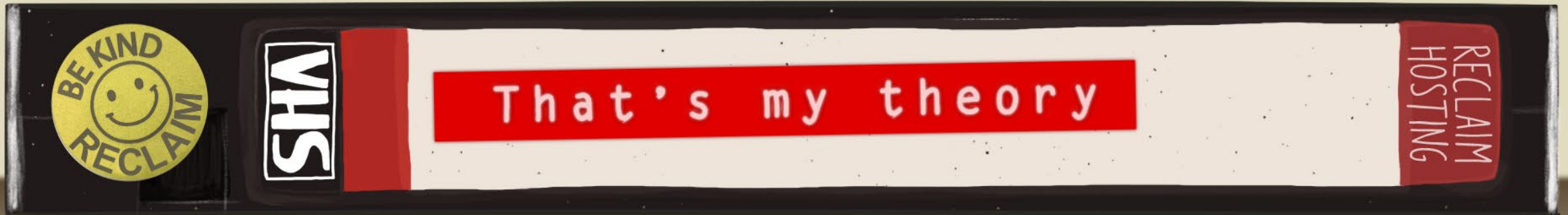


The robustness of higher education

Martin Weller

Hypothesis – the internet is designed to be robust, and so is distance ed



What does the pandemic reveal about fragility in the education system?

It's based on bringing people to one location

There are crunch points (exams)

All aspects are co-located

Reliant on other fragile systems
(eg. entry exams)

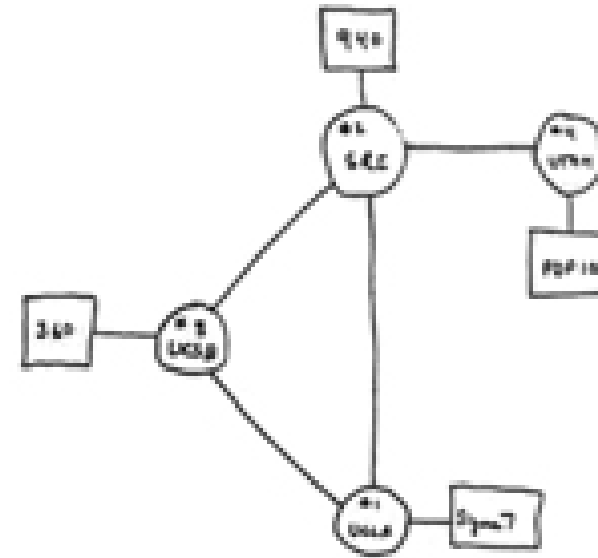


The internet design

Open

Distributed

Decentralised



THE ARPANET

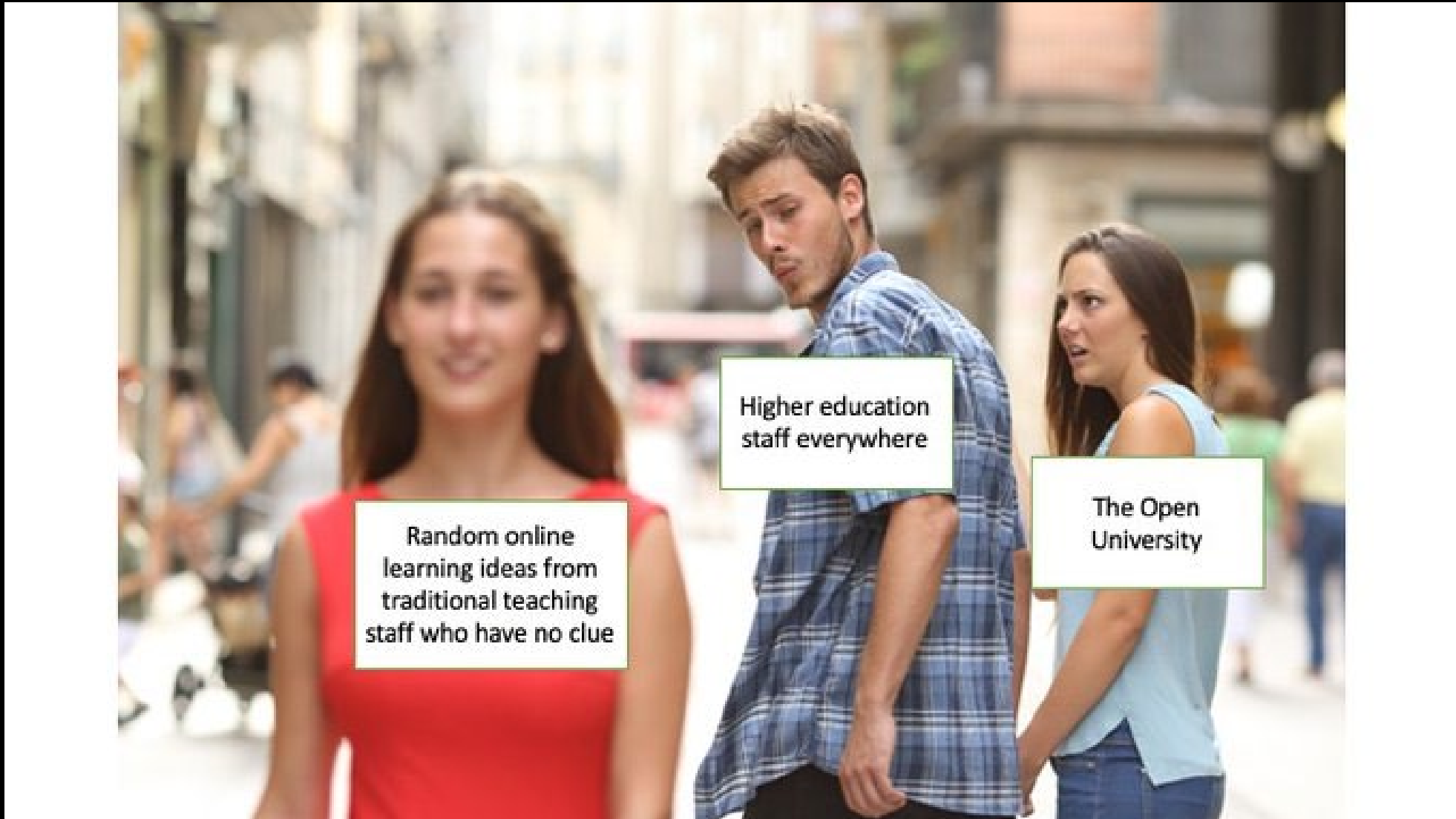
DEC 1969

4 NODES

FIGURE 6.2 Drawing of 4 Node Network
(Courtesy of Alex McKenzie)



Online, open and distance ed



Openness

Open resources - remixed

Open entry - independent

Open source – self hosted

Open access - unlimited



Distributed

Associate Lecturers

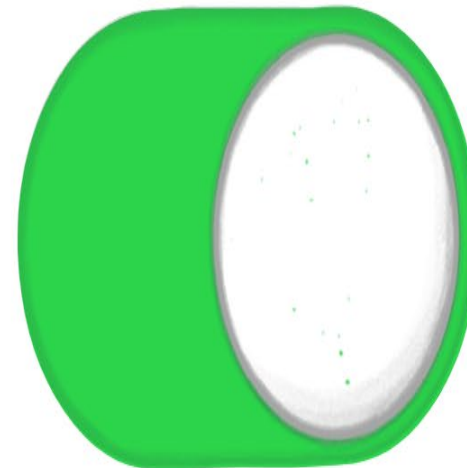
Students

Academics

Support staff

Distributed

No

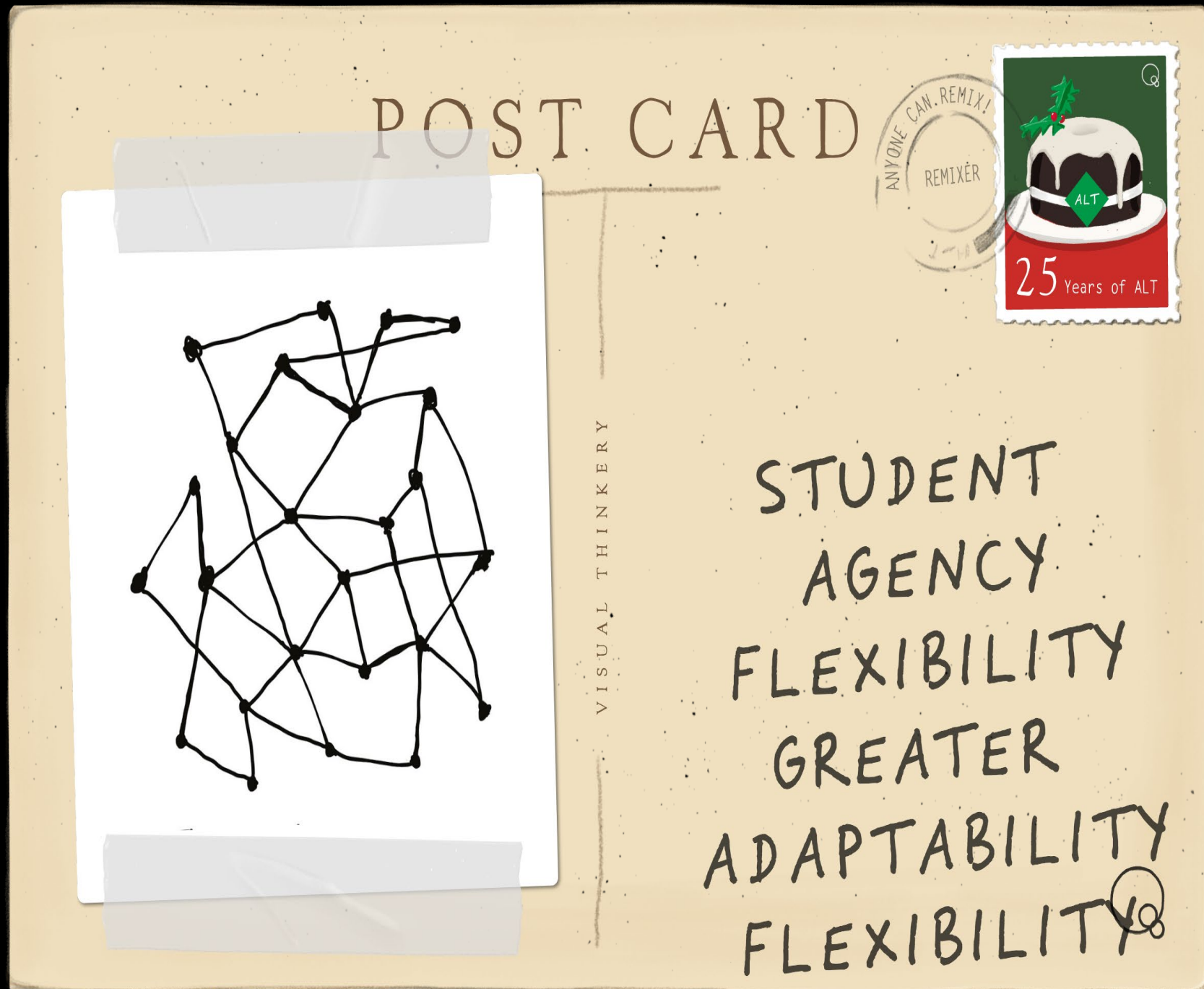


Yes

Decentralised

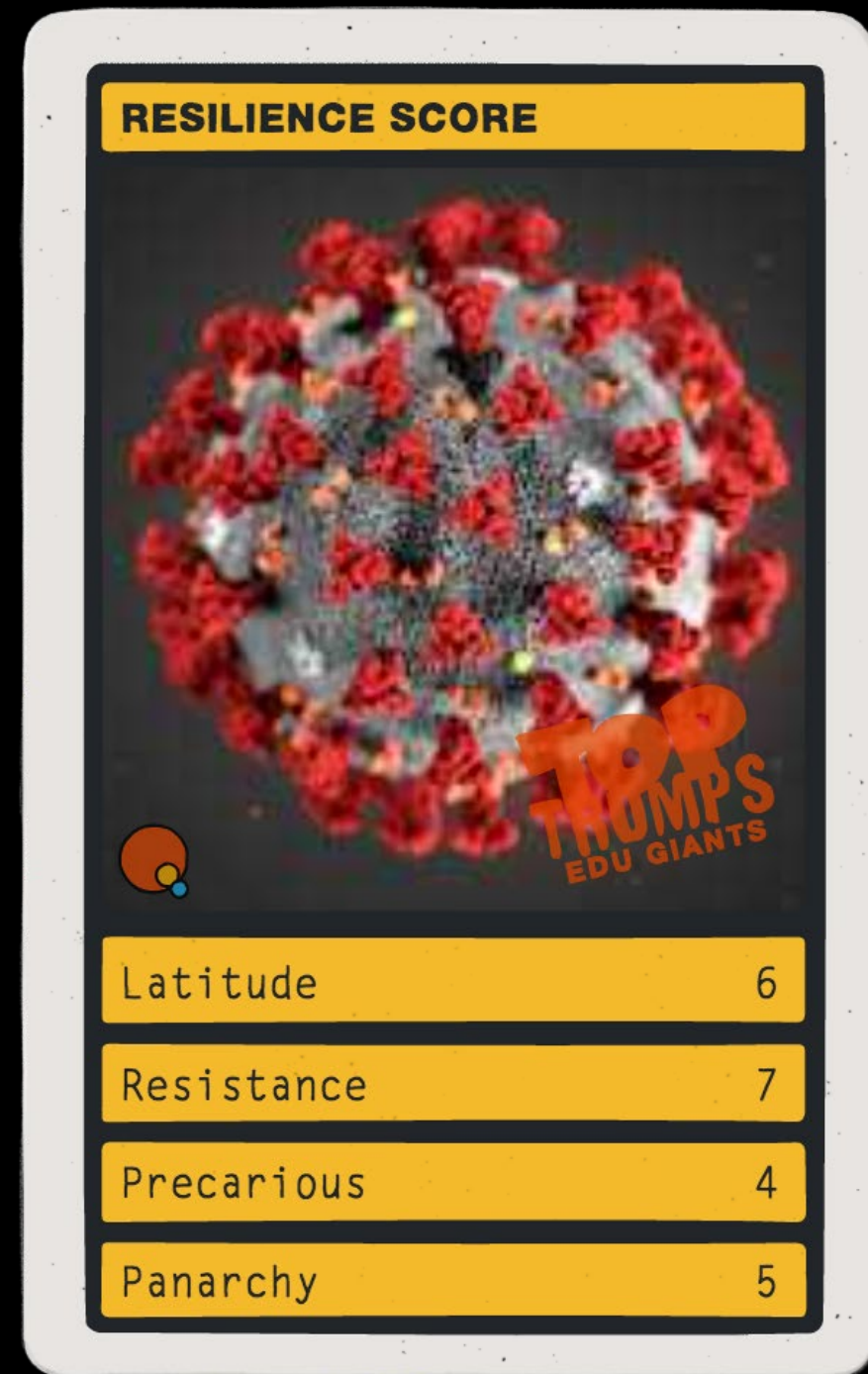
Asynchronous

Teams based



Digital Resilience

1. Latitude - the amount a system can be changed before losing its ability to recover
2. Resistance - how 'resistant' it is to being changed.
3. Precariousness - how close the current state is to a limit
4. Panarchy - the influences of external forces at scales above and below.



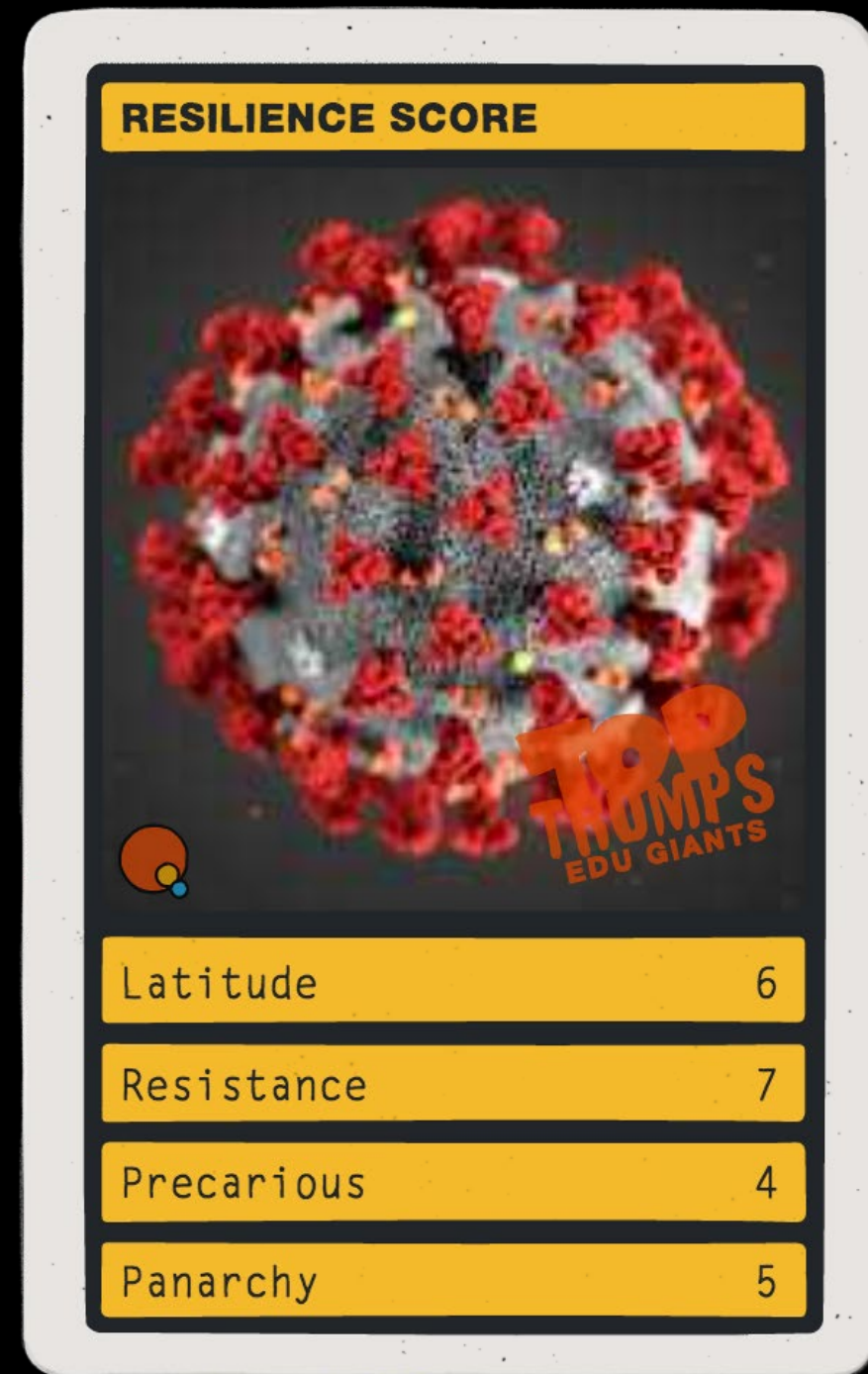
Consider your HEI

Latitude – can the institution change how it teaches and still operate?

Resistance – is there a history of adapting to change?

Precariousness – what state are finances, resources and staffing currently in?

Panarchy – effects such as research funding, political shifts, travel, etc.



When this is all over...

Examine critical points in the system – exams, lectures, physical resources, labs

Develop more robust systems – online, open, asynchronous, blended, project based,

