



THE LIFE AND ~~TIMES~~ TOOLS OF A PAPERLESS STUDENT RESEARCHER

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BA + Honours in Socio-Informatics

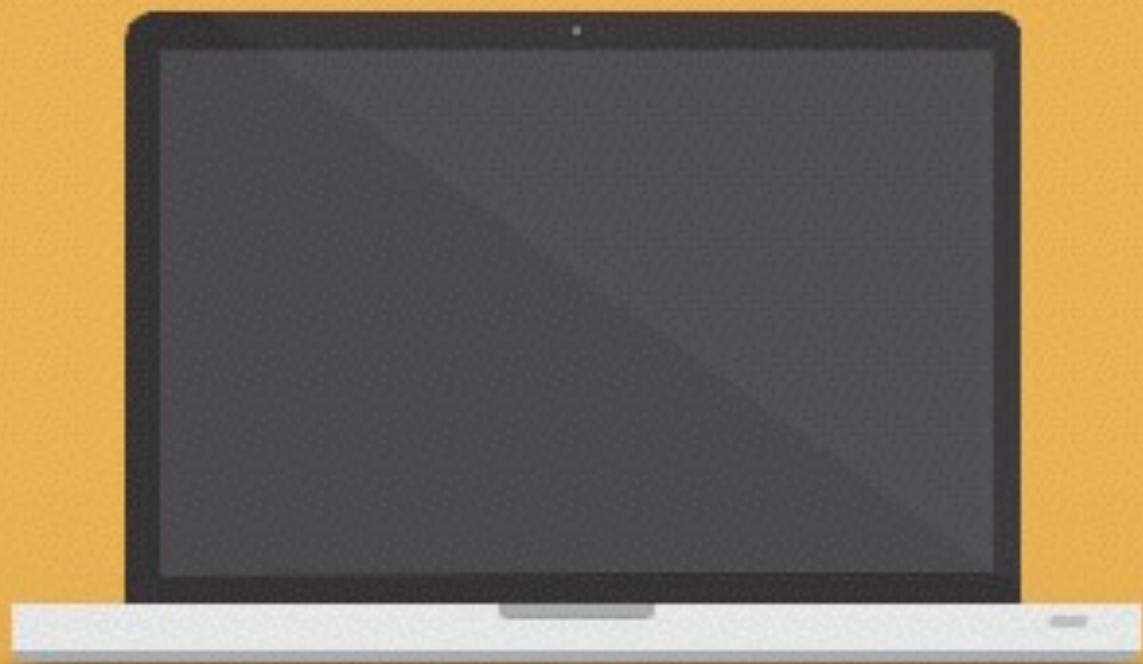


Lots (and lots) of research
and writing...



Look for digital solutions
to create a better
research workflow.

THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE



MACBOOK

(BUT A PC SHOULD ALSO WORK WELL)



IPAD + STYLUS

(BUT AN ANDROID TABLET SHOULD ALSO WORK WELL)

Collect information
and **capture** thoughts

Review and **manage** literature
and previous research



Write essays, papers, reports, etc.

Collect information
and **capture** thoughts



Review material
and **synthesize** literature



Store information
in the cloud



Write essays,
reports, etc.

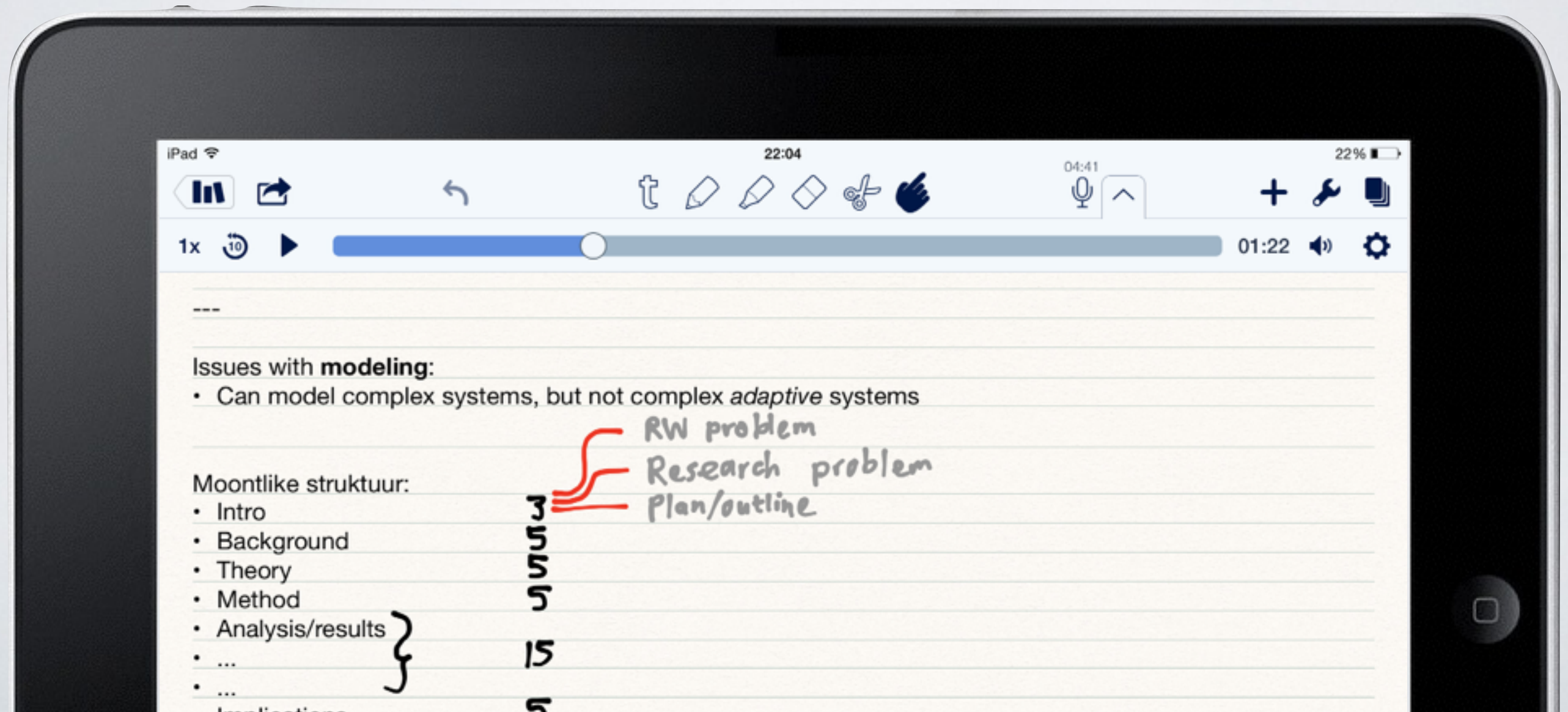


I. EASY AND EFFECTIVE **NOTE-TAKING** IN LECTURES AND CONVERSATIONS



NOTABILITY: \$4,99 on the Apple App Store [[link](#)]

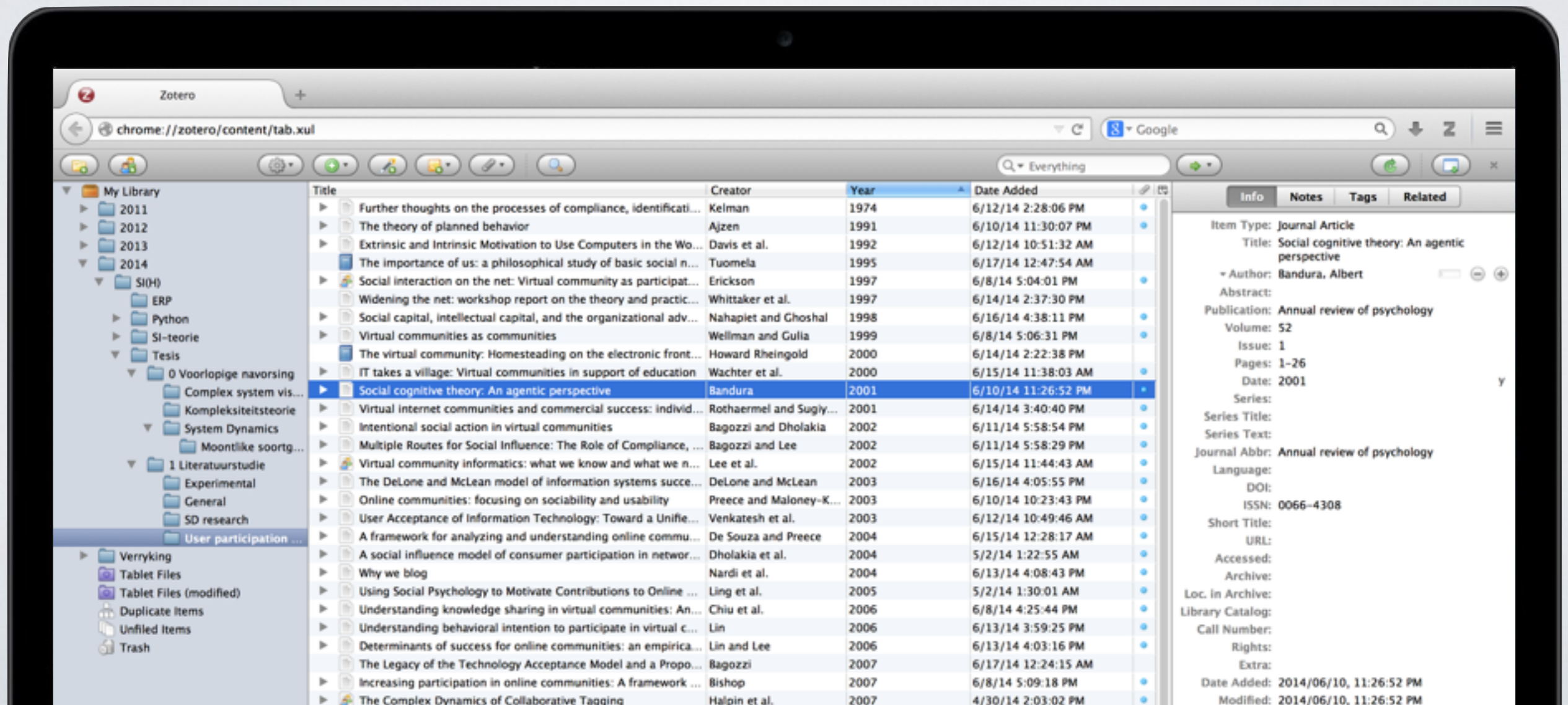
Lets me quickly make well-structured notes, drawings and recordings while I'm listening to a speaker.



2. EASY SOURCE MANAGEMENT AND EFFORTLESS REFERENCING



FIREFOX with ZOTERO: FREE from Mozilla.org [[link](#)] and Zotero.org [[link](#)]
Lets me find, capture, store and reference journal articles, books, websites, and more.

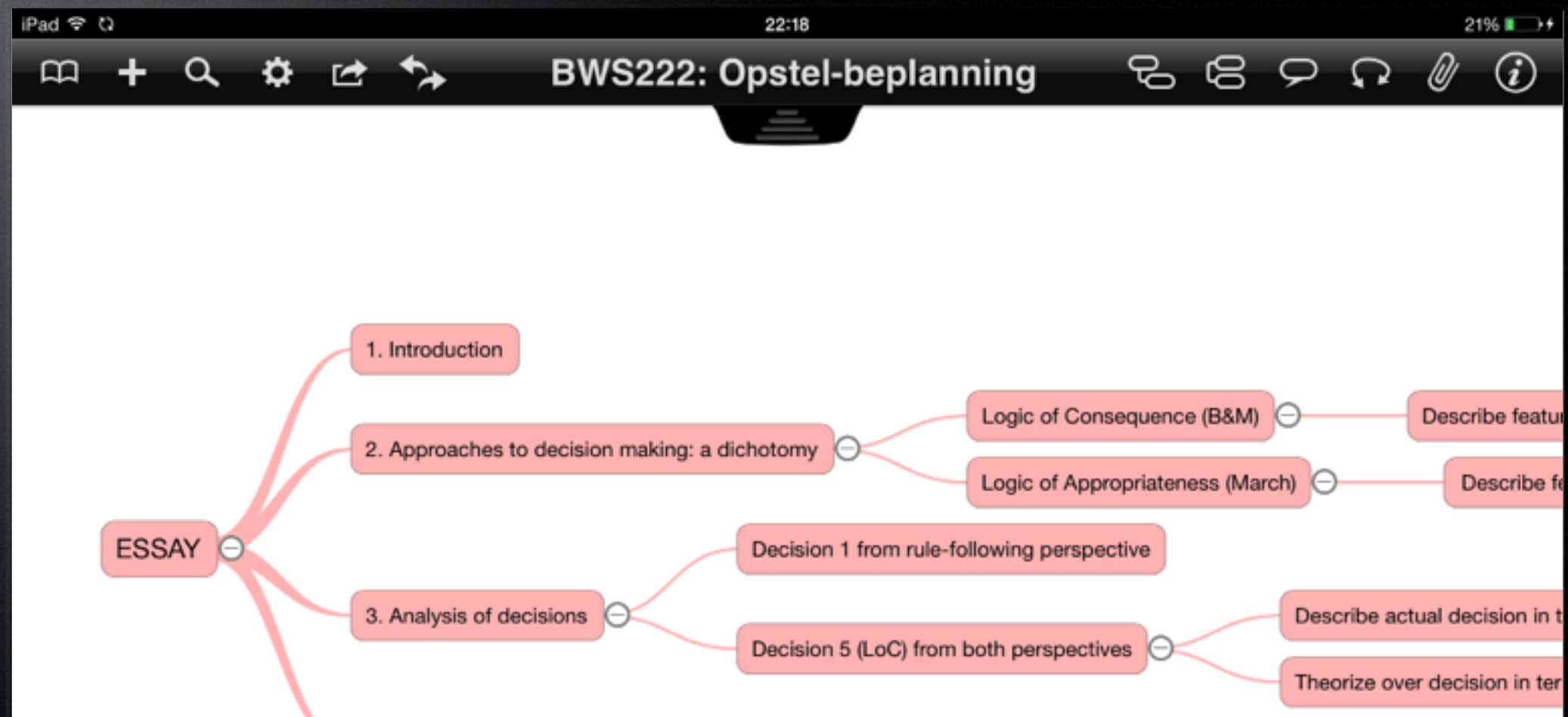


3. SIMPLE **MIND-MAPPING** TO SUMMARISE AND PLAN WRITING



ITHOUGHTS: \$9,99 on the Apple App Store [[link](#)]

Lets me make mind-maps to effectively summarise articles and plan the structure of my own writing.



4. EASY ANNOTATION OF **RESEARCH MATERIAL** ON THE GO



GOODREADER: \$4,99 on the Apple App Store [[link](#)]

Lets me organise, read and annotate articles on my iPad, allowing me to work on my research wherever I go.

In light of the discussions in the sections above, the study will address the following research question:

What are the **key leverage points** that influence user participation in a blog-based social network?

In addition to the main question, the study will address three sub-questions:

1. What are the factors that influence user participation in a blog-based social network – and how are they related?
2. What interventions may be considered to target the key leverage point(s) identified?
3. What are the specific features of the case that may enhance or inhibit the general applicability of its findings to other blog-based social networks?

• → Add more?

5 Research design

As alluded to in the “Research problem” section, there seems to be a diversity of approaches to increasing user participation in online social networks. It is arguably the case that approaches to the issue will depend on the paradigm with which the social network is understood. This study will attempt to understand a blog-based social network from a systems thinking paradigm, to (1) frame the case as a complex system governed by feedback loops, wherein the impact of interventions cannot simply be understood in terms of direct, linear causality and

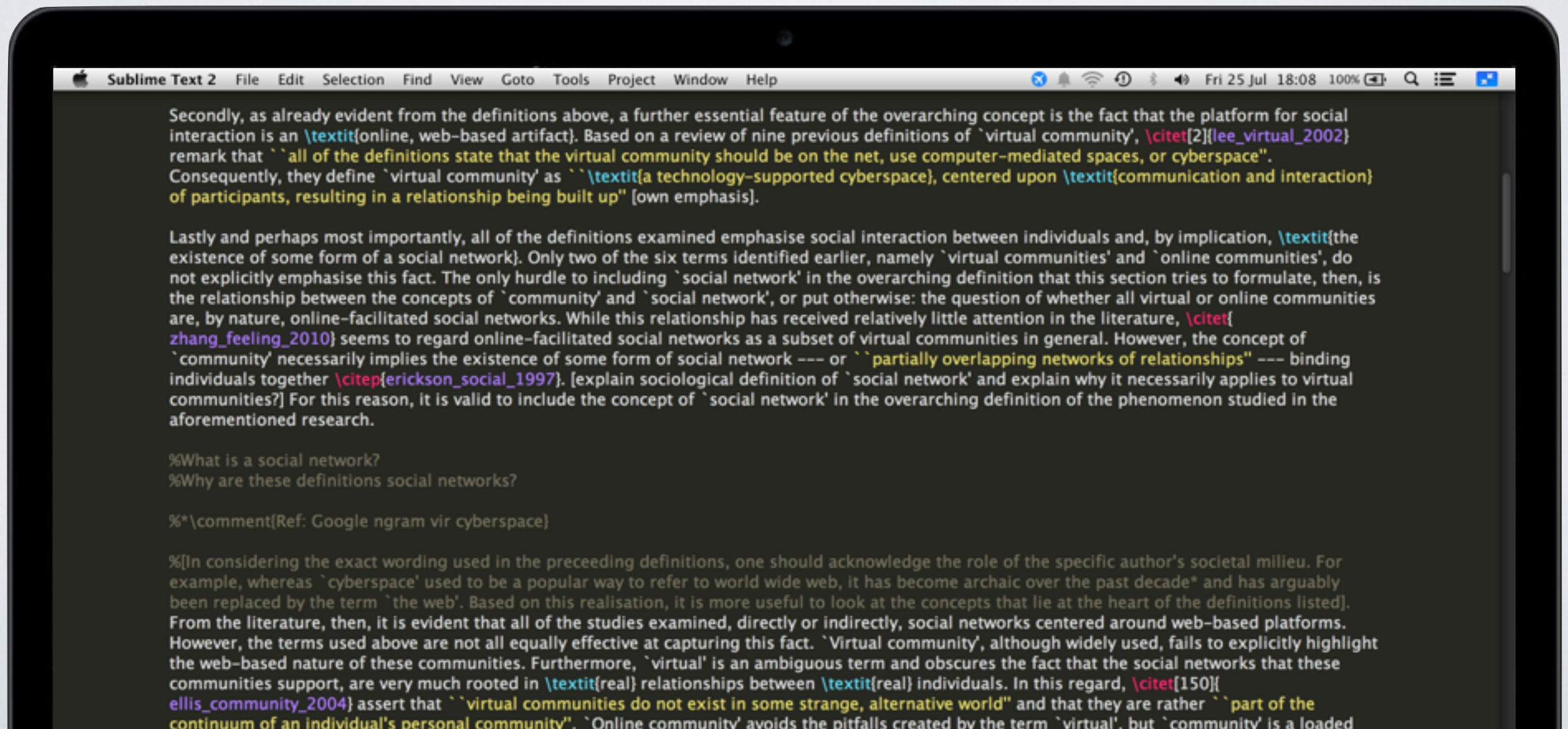
Too broad?

5. MINIMALIST ACADEMIC WRITING



SUBLIME TEXT: FREE from SublimeText.com [[link](#)]

Lets me write my thesis without distractions, while giving me powerful tools to write and reference.



HOW **APPS** MAKE ME A BETTER STUDENT RESEARCHER: *A BIRD'S EYE VIEW*

1. Easy and effective **note-taking** in lectures and conversations
(iPad app: Notability)



2. Easy **source management** and effortless **referencing**
(Mac/PC apps: Firefox + Zotero)



3. Simple **mind-mapping** to summarise and plan writing
(iPad app: iThoughts)



4. Easy annotation of **research material** on the go
(iPad app: GoodReader)



5. Minimalist **academic writing**
(Mac/PC app: Sublime Text + Mac's built-in voiceover)



THE RESULT OF THESE TOOLS AND APPS?



Happy me!