

Education at the Edge of a Paradigm

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Most of the older members of WAAS have faced several cycles of dramatic technological, economic and social change. Each time we have seen the need to educate our populations more effectively. Here we are again - a new age of science and technology in which existing educational practices might well be holding back prospects for human progress.

The aim of this paper is to wonder about and discuss ways to spark our populations to innovate, to invent, and to inspire their way into the next paradigm.

We propose to poke around some of the following topics:

- Our current paradigm, answers and certainty vs. questions and wonder.
- Techno-economic paradigms
- Relational Capital
- Education factories - what about real world lessons and experience?
- Curricula, as if the subject matter trumps the influence of individual teachers.

An example is presented of a remarkable academic who was honored with a hugely prestigious award for his lifetime achievements in optical engineering and teaching. Yet he would surely be deemed unemployable by today's academic institutions.

- New places to look for innovation and economic growth. Focusing in on the role of national systems of innovation and economic growth (the macro level) - to organizational innovation (the micro level) - to individual actors (the irreducibly minimum nano level). We will draw parallels between economics and physics.
- Re-humanizing education

Together we can share experiences, learn from one-another, and speculate about what the next educational paradigm will (or should) look like. Perhaps the Trieste forum and GA will serve to stimulate new ways of contributing ideas that lead to action about education, educating and learning.