4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FUTURE EDUCATION

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Belgrade, Serbia
MULTICULTURALISM OR INTERCULTURALISM

To Build Education in Today’s Global World
Let me begin with a brief introduction about human vision, followed by comments on a few slides I prepared for this talk, then conclude with some ideas for innovating Education in the context of multiculturalism versus interculturalism.

Five points I want to make about the character of the social universe:
ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SENSE OF ORDER

Stability
(balance) of universe

Morality
Justice
Truth

Harmony
Nature, culture, gender, cosmos

governance

Nature, culture, gender, cosmos

Stability

MAAT

Isfet = Chaos
(evil, violence, injustics)

feather

scepter

ankh

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Humanizing Technology, not Robotizing Humans
Do they constitute a polarity?
Journey back a little, all the way to 3rd c BC Alexandria, to 8th c Cordoba, to 9th c. Baghdad, to 11th c. Cairo

**Great Library of Alexandria**, 3rd and 2nd centuries BC
**Great Library of Cordoba** of the Umayyad Dynasty in Andalusia 756–1031
The **Umayyads** were the first Muslim **dynasty**, established in 661 in Damascus

Many more academies. But I wish to focus on two.

**Bayt al-Hikma of Baghdad, or House of Wisdom, early 9th c**

**Dar Al-‘ilm of Cairo, House of Knowledge, Egypt** 1005 CE

” shelves in forty cabinets, each .. could accommodate about eighteen thousand books.”
Dar il-‘Ilm or House of Knowledge, Cairo, 1005 CE
Bayt al-Hikma of Baghdad, or House of Wisdom, early 9th c
Elements in Common in all these Classic Academies

Gathering places of teaching, learning, knowledge exchange, research sharing, translating, printing, reading, documentation

Academy/university, library/archive, curious scholars across ethnicities, faiths, cultural traditions

Observatory - Discovery, invention,

Music, art, poetry, philosophy

Arabs, Persians, Indians, Slavs, Muslims, Christians, Jews -- all faiths, sects, men, women

Teaching & Learning integrated with research and discovery, innovation and recording
MULTICULTURALISM
Interculturalism
Multiculturalism

Exchange, sharing, building knowledge

Interculturalism

Ethnicities, cultural traditions, faiths, fields

Form
- Quantity
- Sum of parts
- Static

Process
- Quality
- Interactive energy & dynamic pattern

False Polarity?
Two Pursuits Innovatively Integrated

Building Minds & Training for Skills

Knowledge creation – research & library

Sharing & transmitting knowledge – teaching & library

Transformative teaching allowing teacher creativity – might remove some technology, not add

Two Paths  innovatively integrated

Skills for market  plus  Building the mind

Education & Innovations must be grounded in cultural tradition, and informed by nation’s level of development, demographics, population size, values, identity
Humanizing Technology, not Robotizing Humans