Towards a Student-centered Education

Prof. Pericles A. Mitkas
former Rector
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
President
Black Sea Universities Network
Millennials

A generation
- born near the dawn of the new millennium - the first born into the digital world
- ethnically and racially diverse
- politically, more progressive in their voting habits and less religiously observant
- the most tech-advanced generation ever
- not only use technology but they are doing their part to advance it as well
- they believe education through technology is a big factor to achieving success in life
The majority of young people today

- See themselves as **Global citizens**, who have the responsibility to make the world better.
- Want to contribute to the general **welfare of society**.
- Value **diversity**, are outraged by **social injustice**, are willing to **act** to make the **world a more equitable place** and take responsibility for their actions.
- Want to learn **foreign languages** so that they can be educated and work in different countries. **Mobility** is important to them.
- Want **flexibility** and **lifelong learning**.
- Believe in job equality, and they want **recognition**.

http://luckyattitude.co.uk/millennial-characteristics/
The answer and the path is Education
We want to be able to learn Anything, Anytime, Anywhere. At our pace, at our place.
Technology is good for Education. Probably.

Opportunities:
- Greater connectivity
- Global communities
- Accessible, Ubiquitous, Abundant Information
- Collaborative knowledge building
- New devices, New tools, New platforms for learning

Risks:
- Digital divide
- Decreasing social interactions?
- Machine dependence
- Decreasing critical thinking skills?
- Cyberbullying
The many faces of Education

Distant Learning
Webinars
MOOCs
Erasmus Programs
Lifelong Learning
Virtual Reality & Simulation
E-learning

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/09/is-online-learning-the-future-of-education
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/06/21-places-to-learn-critical-skills-that-will-change-your-life
The Multiple Windows to Student-centered Education

- eLearning
- Future Education
- OOCs & MOOCs
- Mobility
- Flexible Learning
- Virtual Reality - Gamification
- Transferability of learning experiences
- Lifelong Learning
- The end of traditional University?
Flexible learning

• Flexible learning is a principle of practice in formal education, concerned with increasing flexibility in the
  ➢ requirements
  ➢ time and location of study
  ➢ teaching
  ➢ assessment
  ➢ certification

• It has become synonymous with **online learning** in recent years or **blended learning**
Life Long Learning

Trends that determine LLL:

• Influenced by eLearning & available technologies
• Learn any time, any place
• Technology is getting better, cheaper, accessible
• Boundaries among disciplines dissolve
• Transdisciplinary education in the form of specialized programs
• Open Learning philosophy: open admissions, open timeframes, open access learning resources
The end of traditional university as we know it?

• Not really
• But micromasters, nanodegrees, one-off classes, specialization, are all justifiable
• Follow the others in the business?
• Rather than copying Stanford or MIT, ask:
  ➢ what does my institution do better than any other?
  ➢ where do we have the expertise?
• Make your point through *limited outstanding programs* in which the entire world knows that to study area X someone must go to your school
• Local universities will become educational service providers in other countries?
• Global universities will emerge?
Education will never disappear

The concepts that will shape the future of education during the next 20 years

1. Diverse time and place
2. Personalized learning
3. Free choice
4. Project based
5. Field experience
6. Data interpretation
7. Exams will change completely
8. Student ownership
9. Mentoring will become more important
10 Characteristics of Student-Centered Experiences

Anytime, Anywhere feedback from my partners in learning

Reflection

Models

Goals + Accountability

Productive Struggle

Critique + Revision

Personal

Agency

Inquiry

Collaboration

Authentic

All of the world's knowledge at my fingertips

All of the world's thinkers connected with me

Katie Martin
@KatieMartinEdu

Future Education - 4th Conference
Two Disturbing Thoughts

Brain-Machine Interface
• Progress in all fronts

We can all talk the talk.
I doubt if any one of us can walk the walk.
Thank you

Pericles A. Mitkas

Email: mitkas@auth.gr