

*Shanghai Polytechnic University
Global Partnership Week
Forum*

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More coach, less master.

Dear president Mr. Yu and secretary of the Party Committee Mr. Song,
honorable Global partners, and guests

The topic of my speech will be "Teaching innovation and practice under the background of
"internet + education"

15 minutes is little time. Therefore I also have my speech in a pdf version. I can send it to
you in return of your business card, if you wish. I call it speech+ (plus) ... and I will dwell
on the subject a bit more.

So... I don't want to waste too much time on my introduction. Other than I am here as
Chairman of the Sino and Europe, cultural interaction foundation. (Also in the pdf, there is
more info about the foundation).and.... I am teaching (with great pleasure) at the 'College
of Applied Art & Design a part of the Shanghai Polytechnic University.
This will be very useful to explain to you 'the practice - part' at the end of my speech.

The word 'innovation' appealed to me the most (of course this has everything to do with
me being a designer). It is why I focussed on option B out of the supplied suggestions.

I hope I can make a contribution to this forum and set your minds in such a way that it will
open a window to this topic.

It will be a more philosophical talk from a teachers perspective, less scientific. I will bring
along thoughts from the Amsterdam University of Arts from which I graduated as a
qualified teacher in Fine Arts.

Let me start by giving my conclusion straight away while I still have your full attention.

Teaching innovation and practice under the background of "internet + education"...

... will be the shift towards the (even more) 'off-line' social- and organizing skills of the teacher in class with the ability to integrate 'on-line' digital tools.

More as a coach, less as a 'master'.

I now will explain how I got to my findings.

First I like to synchronize our minds on the word "Innovation".

In my old pocket-dictionary it says: ***make changes (in old customs, etc.); bring in something new.***

In the Free Encyclopedia (Wikipedia) on internet no less than 40 definitions can be found.

But to define Innovation simply, it says: ***"a new idea, device, or method.***

Innovation is often also viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs."

I like to pick out the following meanings to make my point:

Innovation = to make changes in old customs

Innovation = a new method.

Innovation = the application of better solutions that meet new requirements.

In the context of the topic I would like to formulate the following as our 'educational' task using these meanings of the word innovation:

New societal requirements need better solutions e.g. in applying new teaching methods, it will change old teaching customs.

After all, to prepare students for society, is our mission.

What are these 'new societal requirements'?

In our very near future developments in the world will accelerate at an ever growing speed. 'Singularity' is about to happen, according to Ray Kurzweil.

What does 'Singularity' mean and what has it to do with studying and teaching?

Due to the exponential growth of computing power the pace of changes will speed up dramatically. At certain point the curve of progress will bent and take off like a rocket.

We are now in 'the knee' of this event. Kurzweil says. Artificial intelligence is key in these developments. The predictions are that in 2023 artificial intelligence surpasses the brainpower of a human and in 2045 it will surpass the the brain power of all humans combined. (Do we still have to study at all, you might wonder?)

We can argue about the speed and the impact it will have on our lives and society. But I think we all agree on the fact that change is now more than ever the only constant in our lives and that the speed of change is in 'up-tempo'.

Through internet we already have access to 'a tsunami' of information.

"Any child with a cell phone today has access to more immediate information than Bill Clinton did 15 years ago as the president of the United States."

Artificial intelligence is already among us. E.g. in the 'simple' search function of your browser. Still this is a very primitive display of what is yet to come. Artificial intelligence will not only answer and anticipate on your demand at light-speed. Probably it will also 'advise' (or order you?) what to do. Convenient... but also scary.

Still I wonder... will Artificial Intelligence be able to ask itself questions?

Why ask yourself a question when you know everything up to date?

With A.I. knowing everything it is up to human to ask the right questions.

Some fear Artificial Intelligence will take over. We sure have to be aware. But I trust our wondering, curiosity and creative imagination is what could keep us at the helm of our space ship earth.

The ability to handle (and control) this powerful source of knowledge will be our next challenge.

In fact education has always been about this question: How to handle and process information and prepare our youth for society, it is nothing new, but it is obvious that circumstances have changed dramatically.

Therefore we need to teach our students new skills... 21st century skills, to prepare them for their jobs in the future.

Maybe for jobs that don't even exist yet!

If so... the old paradigm of the 'master & student' relationship (especially in vocational education) does not really seem to fit into this new reality anymore.

Since... you can not be a master of a job that does not yet exist. Also with the transition from the previous century to this information and data driven digital age the environment and methods in education have to shift along. Or it will lose connection with reality.

20 th century	21 th century
Curriculum	Projects
Time-slotted	On-demand
One-size-fits-all	Personalized
Competitive	Collaborative
Classroom	Global community
Text-based	Web-based
Summative tests	Formal evaluation
Learning for school	Learning for life

The 'learning for life' certainly can be applied to the role of a teacher....

.... who has to stay updated with new technologies and digital developments.

One can not expect from any person to 'master' every new development in his or her field. (That is why communication and collaboration is so important) The speed of change is... and certainly will be... too fast.

Also for the universities controlling the nerve ends of their organization, the teachers, a quick shift is not an easy thing to do. Education conducted with responsibility is a very elaborated task. Still, within the existing systems and coming years 'change in old costumes' have to be made.

Changing to 21th century teaching focussing on the 21th century skills. What are they?

These skills are quite general but are needed to arm students for their unprecedented future. It will turn students from passive listeners to active researchers, critical thinkers, communicators and team players.

21 th century skills		
Student From a passive listener to an active researcher, critical thinker, communicator and cooperator.	Learning skills	Teacher qualities
	Critical thinking	Philosopher
	Creative thinking	Associative thinker
	Collaborating	Manager
	Communicating	Moderator
	Literacy skills	
	Information literacy	Guide
	Media literacy	Guard
	Technology literacy	Antenna
	Teacher From a 'master' to a provider of opportunities and a creator of structures.	Life skills
	Flexibility	Safe environment
	Initiative	Step aside
	Social skills	Moral compass
	Productivity	Boss
	Leadership	Coach

Of course this requires also some skills and a new approach to the profession of the Teacher. For starters, Teacher-education itself and the selection criteria for teacher-jobs should, next to the expertise in a discipline, be more focused on information-, media- and technology literacy aswell as organization and communication skills. Teachers have to transform themselves from 'master' into 'a provider of opportunities and a creator of structures.'

Many of the 'teacher qualities' are already common skills among teaching staff. With the University curriculum at hand, teachers should be more flexible in providing their own structures and creating opportunities using their expertise and the possibilities internet has to offer.

The social structure in a 'real people' class is a big advantage for the 'learning- & life-skills'. To have a guide into the digital landscape and explore your way with your classmates to correct answers (not everything is true on internet!) would be an ideal way to study. Not only for jobs (that not yet exist) but also to become a social, collaborative and respectful member in the 21th century society.

Innovation in education will be the shift towards the (even more) social- and organizing abilities of the teacher with the use of available digital tools. More as a coach, less as a master.

Thank you for your attention.