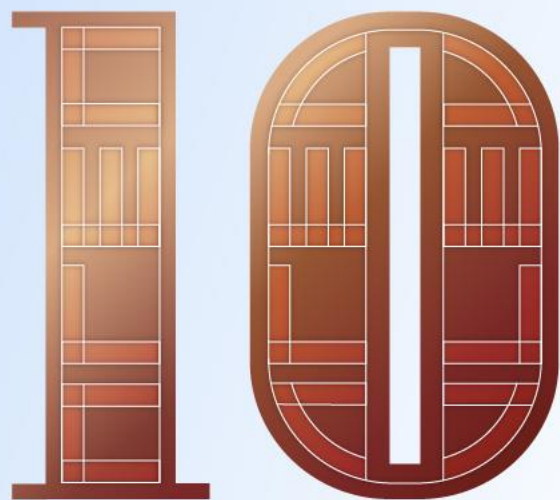




Information Technology Services
The University of Hong Kong



The University of Hong Kong
Libraries



CWLCs 10th Anniversary Ceremony &
Hybrid Teaching and Learning Conference



Information Technology Services
The University of Hong Kong



The University of Hong Kong
Libraries



CWLCs 10th Anniversary Ceremony

Hybrid Teaching and Learning Conference

Professor CHENG Kai-ming

Emeritus Professor
Faculty of Education

Learning Commons 2023.5.30

The **Learning discourse**

Kai-ming CHENG

Professor Emeritus

University of Hong Kong

Learning Commons 10th Anniversary

2023.5.30

Congratulations

Learning Commons

for its significant presence on campus
in the past 10 Years.

This has been the First Place

I take visitors on any Campus Grand Tour

... my Learning Experience

Two Observations

Observation 1:

The **Ultimate Aim** of Education

Is Students' Future

教育的最終目的是為了學生的未來!

The **Core Business** of Education

Is Students' Learning

教育的核心業務是學生的學習!

End

Macro: Society

Means

Micro: Individual

Intertwined

Observation 2:

Learning is a human instinct,
Education is not!

學習是人的天性，教育卻不是

Education is system of learning
designed by human beings for human beings.

教育是人類為人類設計的學習系統

The notion of Education bears with it
the economic, social, political, cultural and spiritual
underpinning of the time!

教育因此帶有時代的烙印
經濟、政治、社會、文化、信仰

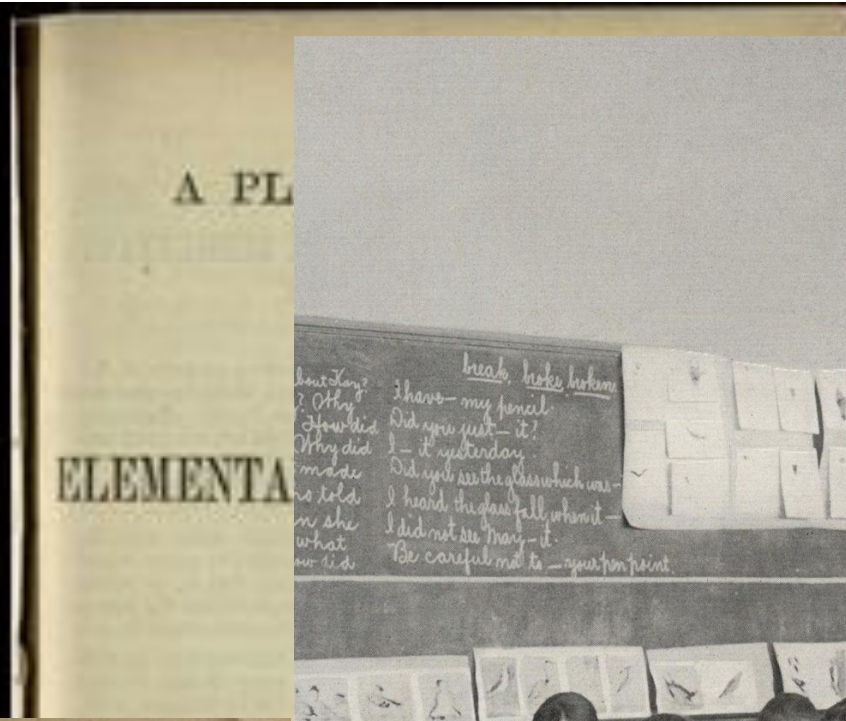
Which means
the notion could be obsolete!

Education could be obsolete!
也就是說：教育是可以過時的！

Fortunately or Unfortunately
We are at this Juncture of History!

Schools as a System
emerged only in the mid-19th Century
at the Peak of the Industrial Era

**British
*Elementary
Education Act*
1870**



**First ever
society-wide
government-
initiated
School System**



Typically ...

1870

British businessmen advocated
this is the only way
to keep the British Empire strong!

a **School System!**

However,

The whole-society system
is not an expansion of the Public Schools.

全民的學校體系，並未全民培養精英

It's for screening human beings
for classifications, horizontal and vertical
according to manpower needs

而是根據社會的勞動力需求，把人分等分類

It's a process

Turning Human Beings into Human Resources

In a way, it is

Torturing students

until they confess to the labour market!

It's an Economic Discourse

Schooling as a
Factory Production Line



Charlie Chaplin Modern Times 1936



Schooling is a Ladder

Designated Goal: credentials, scores, admissions, ...

Well-defined steps: grades, exams, ...

One : Ladder for Everyone

Common expectations: passing exams

Common content: the curriculum

Common process: teaching

Common pace: age-wise grades



Promised bright future

Credentials

marks, scores, grades, certificates, diplomas, ...

as the sole target goal for schooling!

It's a ticket,

Controlling entry to society!

It's a brain-washer,

Self-values are hijacked by scores.

The Ladder

was compatible with the career ladder!

It used to be...

One Goal 一個目標

One Hope 一個希望

One Path 一條直路

Clear Steps 步步高升

No Choice 不作他想

Limiting! 別無他念

Lifelong 渡此餘生



階梯：可望可即

Ladder

Society has changed!

Sarah Ellis



Squiggle 繞迴 變幻莫測

Now, 21st Century

Work-Study Mismatch

Frequent change of Jobs

Frequent change of Careers

Short Commitments

Slashers/Free-lancers

YouTubers

Start-ups/Self-Employed

Home-Bound

New Normal!



To prepare students for their future ...

Credentials

have to be replaced by

Learning!

... mission of the time!.

But what is learning?

Learning = Teaching?

Learning = Following the Curriculum?

Learning = Success in Examinations?

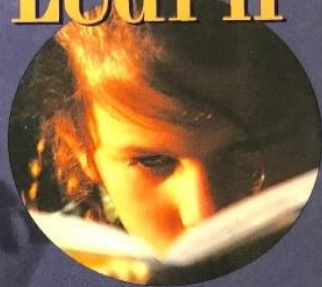
Learning = Absorbing Knowledge?

Learning = Literacy & Numeracy?

Therefore
Science of Learning

學習科學

How People Learn



Brain,

Mind,



Experience,

and



School

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Science of Learning – The Fundamental

學習科學 – 最根本的原理

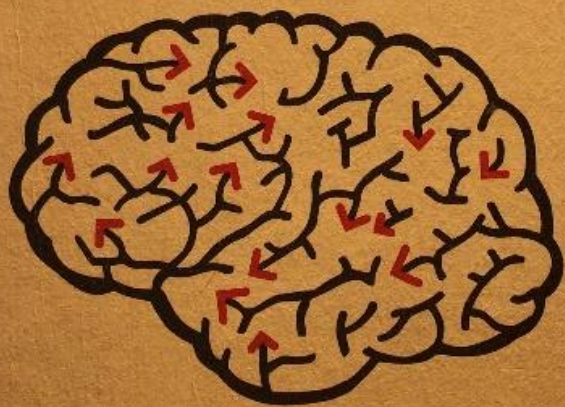
Human brains are plastic.

**Human activities shape
human brains.**

人腦是可塑的，
是人的活動在塑造人腦

NORMAN DOIDGE

The Brain that Changes Itself



Stories of Personal Triumph from
the Frontiers of Brain Science

'The power of positive thinking finally gains scientific
credibility. Miracle-making stuff'

THE NEW YORK TIMES

'Doidge has identified a tidal shift in basic science and a potential
one in medicine. The implications are monumental'

PENNY WARK, THE TIMES



值得一看！

Some principles

Learning is meaning-making
Learning is knowledge construction.

學習是人對於外界事物賦予意義的過程
人類在與外界交往的過程中，對事物形成概念，也就是產生知識

Therefore,
Knowledge is not *poured* into the brain.
Knowledge is created by individual brains.

知識不是從外界輸入人腦的 學習是在個別的人腦中發生的

Some Principles

Students have to be active learners.

學生應成為主動的學習者

Students should be given

Choice and Space

給予選擇, 留出空間 (留白)

Some Principles

Respect individual differences.

Allow diverse learning paths.

Create room for creativity.

尊重個別差異, 允許多元途徑, 開闢創意空間

Some Principles

**Understanding and application
happens at the same time**

理解與實踐是同時發生的
實踐中的學習是最有效的

Some Principles

Learning by doing!
Learning by using!
Learning in context!

在使用中學習

Some Principles

Learning is Social Cognition

學習是群體的認知活動

Therefore,

Discussions, Interactions, Collaborative Learning

討論 互動 答問 集體作業

Learning Commons

is to facilitate
all these to happen

Learning versus **Study**



Learning Commons

By the same token ...

Learning Commons
is not
an end in itself!

Beyond Learning Commons

Learning is a matter of experience.

學習 重在經歷

Experiences beyond reading,
beyond curriculum,
beyond campus,
beyond study!

Beyond Learning Commons

Leaning beyond Knowledge Implicit Learning!

culture, family, role models, peers

文化熏陶、家庭传承、教师楷模、朋辈影响
耳濡目染，潜移默化，

How People Learn II



**Learners,
Contexts,
and
Cultures**

Diversity in Learning
Individuals and Memory
Knowledge and Reasoning
Culture of Learning
Technology and Learning
Age and Disabilities

.....

even in terms of space ...

空間



Thank you!

kmcheng@hku.hk