

LECTURE 'HARD TO BECOME WHO YOU ARE'

Wim Kratsborn, Roskilde University 19-11-2014

I'm happy to be back in Denmark. My project To-Gather once started back in the eighties, while visiting Viborg, Silkeborg, Aarhus and Copenhagen with groups of Dutch students. Danish education was like paradise for us and as a didactic criminal I did steal a lot. Sorry for that but maybe I can give something back through this presentation.

As a passenger in time I traveled through Europe and the Arab world, meeting young people and their teachers. In Damascus they called me 'The Viking', because I came from the North with the dragon as '*The Firestarter*' (The Prodigy). By the way, it's good to talk in music titles.

And now I'm here at the University of Roskilde after forty-three years of teaching and still trying to get up that great big hill of inspiration. I want to share my film '**HARD TO BECOME WHO YOU ARE**' with you and five ways to look at the film. It's a wake-up call in order to become who you are.

'Hey ho let's go' (The Ramones)

1. Firstly this is not a film but **a passion driven learning journey**. It's an energizer to know and feel more about the self and the other in the past, the present and the future. The starting point is:

'We should learn how learners are learning to learn'

That's why we use transmedia: a film, a book (2015), a game with the Oculus rift (2016), music and (virtual) reality. Each medium needs another learning style or a set of learning styles.

That's why a multi-disciplinary approach is needed including philosophy, history, economy, sociology, culture and art (music).

We also use an innovative passion driven teaching and learning style. With a little help from my friend Howard Gardner from Harvard and his five minds for the future, it was possible to create all these transmedia.

2. Secondly the youth of today, as the first global 'Millennials' need to use and balance **the five minds for the future**. How can they gather good and sufficient knowledge through the disciplined mind?

How can they use the synthesizing mind and get an overview. Four Non Blondes sings: *'And I said hey hey hey what's going on?'*

In 2014 the world, the world is on fire and that's why the creative mind is needed urgently to solve problems. But many young people are living in a bubble and are just bubbling around.

'Why have we forgotten what's important in life?' (Rob Riemen). So the respectful and ethical mind are focused on respect, norms and values and on *'What money can't buy'* (Michael Sandel).

In the film and in reality youngsters are different as a hedonist, a protestor, an avatar or a neo-nazi. They may be empathic, critical, streetwise or sustainable.

3. In the third place we are living in '*crazy world, crazy times*' (Michael Stype) somewhere between dynamic **turning points**. It was a shock when I found out that the same turning points before WWI are still up to date: '*Every day is like a hundred years*'. The film is a warning for World War One as the war that never ended. After World War One a soldier wrote: '*I should have known better*'. Let's not sing the same song again in the future.

The turning points were/are:

- the new economy with the second and the third industrial revolution
- new technology with tanks, machine guns, cars and poisoned gas and nowadays with robots, drones, bio-technology and social media.
- isms like nationalism, Islamism, imperialism, militarism ,terrorism and economic liberal capitalism. Did the economic liberal capitalism brought out the worst in us? When '*I read the news today oh boy*' (John Lennon) and saw all the corruption, greed and violence, I thought: '*You can't do that*' (The Beatles).
- Related to human rights there's a battle going on between good and evil. Jeremy Rifkin thinks that

‘empathy is in the air for you and me’, while John Gray believes that ‘evil is in each human heart’. In 2014 evil is knocking on heaven’s door and the invisible hand is not working. Hopefully *‘God is not dead, he’s just working on a less ambitious project’*.

-There’s a lot of ‘past that’s no history’ before WWI such as the Napoleonic wars, the revenge for the war of 1870/1871, imperialism, militarism and nationalism. In the present the past is revitalized in the Arab world by conflicts about the borders after WWI, the caliphate of IS and young European jihad-soldiers in Syria.

Writing the script of the film, I was a bit worried that the Cold War was not interesting for young people any more. So I phoned Putin and asked him to do something about it. His answer was ‘da’, but he exaggerated a bit. So I phoned him again to cool down: ‘Vladimir, the Third World War’ is not part of the script!

4. Fourthly **music makes sense**. Never before music was so important for young people. It’s a chance to use music as a sense opener, a source of knowledge, a problem solver and a way of communication and reflection. Let’s turn music festivals into learning landscapes.

I agree with Friedrich Nietzsche: *'Without music life would be a mistake'*. During the film you may close your eyes and *'go with the flow'* (Queens of the Stone Age).

Music is about emotion and fortunately brain research has progressed a lot.

'We feel and therefore we learn' wrote Mary Helen Immordino, an expert in brain-research. We know now that information firstly goes to the emotional center of the brain and then to the cognitive one. Don't worry, because through the film your brains will be used in a good way.

5. 'The future is not like it was before' is the fifth way to look at the film.

It's about the future and *'Watcha gonna do about it?'* (Small Faces). It's not about *'Wake me up when it's all over'* (Avicii). Let's try to become who you are, use the five minds and turn the present turning points in the right direction. It's essential to make the right choices, because otherwise others will choose for you.

Maybe it's time for a 'Global Tweet Revolution' by young people to create 'To-Gatherland' as a kind of music festival. *'Festivals can radiate the new message'*, Wubbo Ockels said. This learning landscape is not on the map but the destination of all. Young people are trying to survive like prehistoric hunters by doing multi-tasking

and staying in contact with the surroundings. Stay alert and don't forget:

'We won't get fooled again' (The Who). Sorry, but I forgot who sings this.

So fasten your seat belt and experience the roller coaster, following the ups and downs during the last 100 years. *What goes on in your mind* (The Beatles)? After the film you may write or draw your thoughts and feelings on the working scheme 'Headlines'.

Write your feedback on a sticky note, put it on the big poster '**The Butterfly Touch**' and fly away.