

Megatrends of the Mind: Impact on Today's Young People?

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"To Be Young!"

Youth and Futures International Conference

Finland Futures Research Centre
Turku, Finland, June 6th – 8th 2012

Elders and Youth: Seeing eye to eye?



Our Journey

1. Being Young: The 21st Century
2. Megatrends of the Mind: Young People
3. Inspirational Young People: Global Initiatives



Being Young in the 21st Century

Being Young in the 21st Century

Challenges:

- ⚙️ Rapid Change
- ⚙️ Continual Flux
- ⚙️ Uncertainty



Being Young in the 21st Century

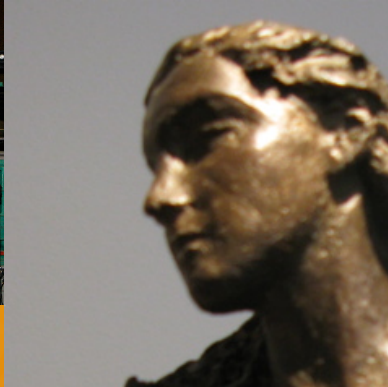
- ✿ Half world's population - under 24
- ✿ Half world's population - living in cities
- ✿ 86% of 10-to-24-year-olds - in less developed countries
- ✿ 200 million - live on < \$1 a day
- ✿ 88 million - unemployed
- ✿ 10 million - HIV positive
- ✿ 130 million - illiterate

Being Young in the 21st Century

- ✿ Living in a Hi-Tech world
- ✿ Bombarded with dystopian images
- ✿ Experience mediated by technology

Being Young in the 21st Century

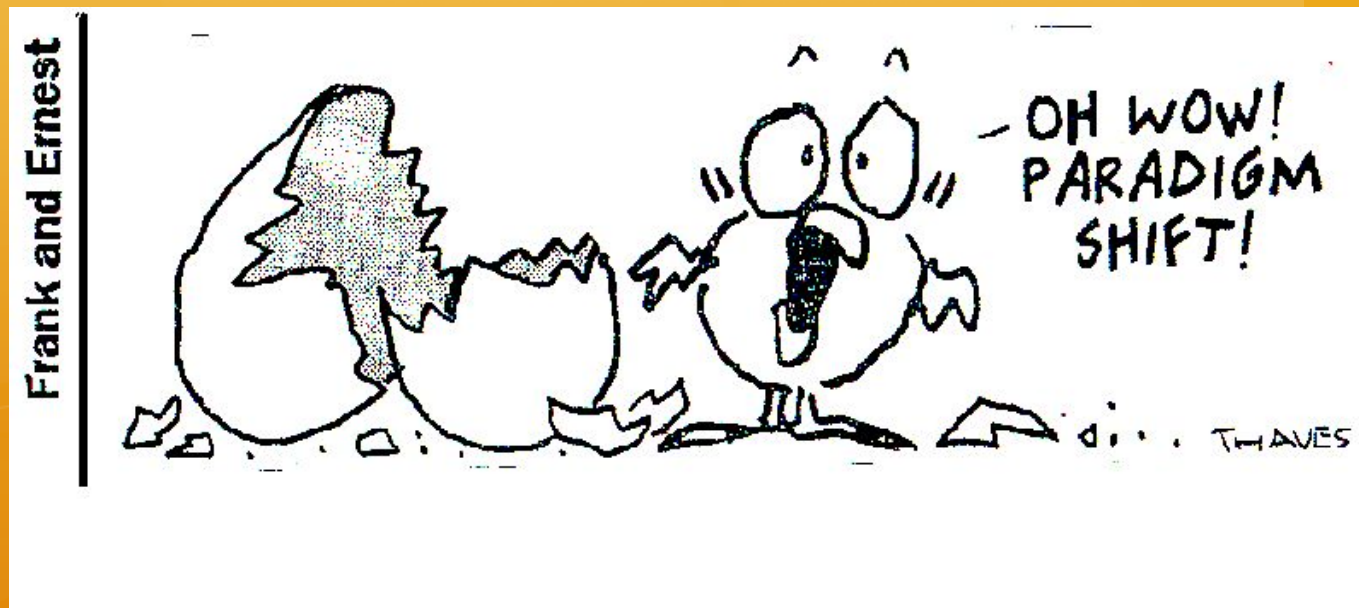
- ✿ 20% of Young Australians: Mental Health Issues
- ✿ Depression, Anxiety, Eating Disorders
- ✿ New Disorder: Climate Depression
- ✿ Positive Futures Visioning
- ✿ Hopelessness Research



Megatrends of the Mind & Young People

Megatrends of the Mind & Young People

100 Years of Paradigm Change



21st century young people naturally get “paradigm shift”

Megatrends of the Mind

What are they?

- ✿ Most Megatrends Research: External Focus
- ✿ Megatrends of the Mind: Internal Focus
- ✿ Cultural Evolution
- ✿ Evolution of Consciousness
- ✿ Postformal Reasoning

Megatrends of the Mind

Evolution of Consciousness Research

- ✿ In Europe: Rudolf Steiner, Teilhard de Chardin
- ✿ In USA: Integral theorists, developmental psychologists
- ✿ In Australia: Futures researchers
- ✿ In India: Sri Aurobindo

Megatrends of the Mind

Evidence from Science

- ✿ Building block physics > quantum possibilities
- ✿ Machine human > creative human
- ✿ Physics closed systems > biology open systems
- ✿ Science over nature > science with nature

Megatrends of the Mind

Evidence from Philosophy

- ✿ Modern analytic philosophy >
- ✿ Postmodern & poststructural
- ✿ Comparative & global
- ✿ Synthesising & integral

Megatrends of the Mind

Evidence from Education

- ✿ Formal factory model education >
- ✿ Pioneers: Steiner, Montessori, Dewey, Aurobindo
- ✿ 1970s: New wave of alternatives
- ✿ 2000s: Postformal pedagogies

Megatrends of the Mind

Evidence from Psychology

- ✿ Mechanistic, behaviourist psychology >
- ✿ Humanistic & person-centred
- ✿ Transpersonal
- ✿ Postformal psychology

Megatrends of the Mind

What is Postformal Reasoning?

- ✿ Piaget's child developmental theory

 - = Highest stage is formal operations

- ✿ Adult developmental psychology

 - = Higher stages of postformal operations

Megatrends of the Mind

Postformal & Young People

New doctoral research links:

- ✿ Postformal Reasoning + Gen Y =
... Postformal Leadership (Earl de Blonville)
- ✿ Postformal Reasoning =
... Natural Mode for Today's Young Leaders

Successful Young People as Postformal Thinkers

Postformal Reasoning Qualities	New Generation Young People
Reflexivity	Consciousness of one's Values
Dialogical Thinking	Collaboration over Competition
Imagination	Inventing the totally new
Creativity	Creative Arts & Business Start-ups
Higher Purpose	Social Entrepreneurship
Paradox	'Contradictory' Behaviours
Complexity	Complex Multi-tasking Capacities
Integration/Holism	Big Picture Views
Intuition	Going with the Flow

Developed in collaboration with Earl de Blonville



Inspirational Young People: Global Initiatives

Inspirational Young People & Global Initiatives

Youthful Enthusiasm: Idealism for the Positive



“Every time that you decide, there’s a positive and a negative side”

Inspirational Young People & Global Initiatives

Save the Giant Redwoods



Julia Butterfly Hill. 1997. Age 24
Protested for 738 days,
Living 55m high,
In a 1,000 year-old redwood tree, California.
Aim: Save the Redwoods. Result: Saved.

Inspirational Young People & Global Initiatives

'Generation Waking Up'



Joshua Gorman

*"We are the middle children of History ...
... the 'make-it or break-it' generation ...
the crucible through which civilization must pass or crash."*

Inspirational Young People & Global Initiatives

Shikshantar



Manish and Shilpa Jain (siblings)

Udaipur, India, 1999

Aims: To provoke, challenge and dismantle factory-schooling
To construct and connect new open learning communities

Inspirational Young People & Global Initiatives

‘Sailing for Sustainability’



Benjamin Kafka & friends

Intergenerational collaboration for sustainability

Transcending the paradigm of expansion growth

Creatively maturing as a society

Joyfully collaborating

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Pioneers of Change



Marianne Knuth & Marianne 'Mille' Bojer

Two founders (1999): Five principles:

Be yourself

Do what matters

Start now

Engage with others

Never stop asking questions

Being Young in the 21st Century

Key Messages



- 50% world's population
- Mental health issues
- Controlled by technology
- But inspired by each other

Megatrends of the Mind & Young People

Key Messages



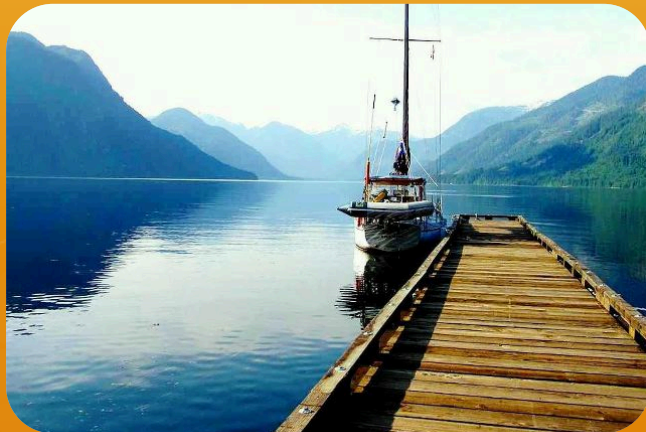
- Undaunted by challenges
- Natural postformal thinkers
- Skilled quantum leapers
- Creating a new world

Inspirational Young People & Global Initiatives

Key Messages



From tree-sitting to save the forests...
To sailing for sustainability...



- Inspirational young people create new and positive futures everywhere
- As futurists we must support and encourage their visions and actions
- Now ... What do they need from us?

My Proposal: Your Challenge

Together, we have the power to create:

A Global Database of
Positive Youth Initiatives

to...

Affirm existing initiatives

Inspire and encourage others

Be creative, courageous & inspirational

So ... Let us Create

A global database of Positive Youth Initiatives

Aligned with Focus of Conference:

“faith in young people,
their ability and determination to build
an inevitably different
and improved world for us all to live in”

Further Contact

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