



Finland Futures Academy

Dr. (Pol.Sc.), Docent Anita Rubin:

Competence Computopia: The Therapeutic Net and the Unlimited Present

Scanning for the Future Seminar

Workshop 4: Scanning for Competence and Education

**Turku, Finland
Friday, June 6th, 2003**



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Today's present

... is composed of interpretations or stories based on the needs and premises of different interest groups.

Stories of the same actions, events, incidents are being constantly repeated from those different, often contradictory starting points.

None of those stories is more or less true than the others.



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The society of experience

In a real-time, emotionally-based Dream Society, decisions have to be made aggressively, effectively, and with a short attention span.

The swelling and expanding present conquers more and more space at the cost of the past and the future.



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New kind of reality

The traditional norms, attitudes, and ways of action are largely out-dated in our new reality.

We are living through a time of extreme alternatives existing simultaneously.

The intensity of action widens the limits of social reality.



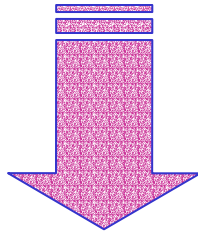
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The non-stop present

- The logic of wholeness becomes opaque.
- Forecasting the future becomes more difficult.
- The future is not yet, and the past has become unimportant history.



The only chance is to live in a continuous now-moment.



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From proactivity to reactivity

Together with the emergence of the information society, our social reality has become a living-like thing to which it is difficult to genuinely affect.

People are no more expected to influence the course of development and change, but rather to adjust to it



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The dilemma of unlimited information

In the web, however, there are no tools *yet* to separate true information from false, right from wrong, relevant from irrelevant, concrete from entertaining.

We do not have the methods or norms to make a difference as how to promote good with this unlimited information or how to use correctly.



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Real-time acquisition of information

- **Blurs the understanding of the logic of cause and effect;**
- **grows the variety of different adoptable lifestyles, ideas of reality, and value systems;**
- **and makes life management more complicated.**



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Coping with the information society

Yet our natural capabilities to receive, digest and transform information and experience emotions has not changed.

We have to use the Internet with the same human capacity our prehistorical mothers and fathers built their stone axes and killed mammoths.



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Identity

- is always attached to a specific place, time, or space;
- is born, moulds and develops in a continuing dialogue with our neighbours.

We either accept or reject the conceptions the others create and present about us.

Therefore the permanence of identity depends on how stable the differences between people are.



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What makes me me?

The identity is a product which is created in the process of defining and excluding differences between individuals.

This interaction draws the lines of who we are and builds the background against which we can see our personal hopes, expectations and characteristics as meaningful.



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Individualism as the source of meaning.

When the claim for individualism is taken to its extremes, it leads to selfishness and hedonism, but also to increasing loneliness and insecurity.

The responsibility of success, lifted on the shoulders of a private young person, is becoming heavier and heavier.



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The autonomous Self

The individual uses his/her own body as the guinea pig for new life-styles.

Solidarity today is loyalty to

- **the micro group**
- **own choices of life-style**
- **use community as the scene of personal self-fulfilment.**

Different projects attached to The Self become the only domain over which he/she has a total control.



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The great paradox of identity

The logic of individualism is based on the idea of separate identities which are self-sufficient, infrangible, and autonomous.

As human beings, we can only express our true selves in our relationship with the others and through the differences we see in them.



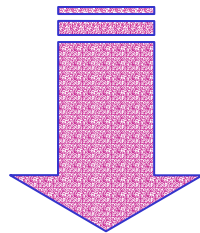
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Communication as a therapeutic experience

Young people seem to be developing a hybrid identity, flexible and changeable according to the needs and requirements given by the situation at hand.



Search for virtual consolation in loneliness, viewlessness, and fear of changing reality.



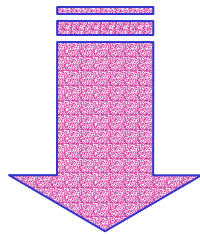
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Freedom for tricky choices

This development might lead to a situation where a human being, who still has a strong need to belong, has to choose between different values, ethical codes and ways of sociality from the inflow of constant information.



Emphasis on private morals basing on individual choices.



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The challenge

People face a danger of changing from active subjects to objects of their own life projects.

They become incidents in events, pieces in the spectrum of somebody else's experience, characters in a play the author of which nobody knows, the storyline remains confusing and the copyright is somewhere else.



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