Augmented/Ampified Humans Colloquium

Charles Fadel
@ Harvard University, September 8, 2016
Charles@curriculumredesign.org
Center for Curriculum Redesign
Twitter: @CurrRedesign #4DEdu
Timing & Protocol

- 8:30 – 9:00: arrivals, breakfast, introductions
- 9:00 – 9:15: setting the stage – several types of Augmentation (Charles) and overall acceleration of technology.
- 9:15- 10:00: presentation on Evolving Ourselves (Steve Gullans) – unnatural selection, non-random mutations
- Break
- Adjourn.

Protocol

Deep, candid, respectful debate
Conversation, not a prediction
Boundary condition: 5-15 years
Avoiding jargon and acronyms
Keeping in mind our personal biases (psychological and occupational)
Thank You!

FONDATION HENRI MOSER
65, rue du Rhône – 1024 Genève – Switzerland
Is this time different?
A combinatorial explosion of possibilities

→ Accelerating change!
“We tend to overestimate the effect of technology in the short run…" and underestimate the effect in the long run."

Source: Roy Amara, Former President, Institute for the Future
Our Limited Imagination

Source: Jean-Marc Côté, 1899
Several Types of Augmentation/Amplification

1. **Physical:**
   - glasses → prosthetics → implants/transplants → exoskeletons → head transplant?

2. **Pharmacological:**
   - caffeine → Adderall → neutraceuticals

3. **Networked:**
   - Computer/social media → Robots, IoT, Headsets (AR, VR, EEG) → AI/Cognitive assistants, brain interfaces/implants

4. **Genetic:**
   - Mating choices → IVF → STEM cells → CRISPR

*We have been making choices all along...*
The Beijing Genomics Institute’s Cognitive Genomics Project is currently doing whole-genome sequencing of 1,000 very-high-IQ people around the world, hunting for sets of sets of IQ-predicting alleles… Kids produced by any one couple typically differ by 5 to 15 IQ points. So this method of "preimplantation embryo selection" might allow IQ within every Chinese family to increase by 5 to 15 IQ points per generation…

Geoffrey Miller, Evolutionary psychologist, NYU in EDGE 2013
“...great responsibility follows inseparably from great power.”  French National Convention of 1793
“Event Horizon”:
• What if formal education cannot catch up?
• Will we *need* Human Augmentation to catch up?
Thank you!

“What should students learn for the 21st century?”

CENTER FOR CURRICULUM REDESIGN
Making Education More Relevant
Hype Cycle

Source: Gartner Group

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The Race between Technology and Education

Inspired by “The race between technology and education”
Pr. Goldin & Katz (Harvard)
21st Century Education Framework

Knowledge
“What we know and understand”
- Interdisciplinarity
- Traditional (i.e., Mathematics)
- Modern (i.e., Entrepreneurship)
- Themes (i.e., Global Literacy)

Skills
“How we use what we know”
- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration

Character
“How we behave and engage in the world”
- Mindfulness
- Curiosity
- Courage
- Resilience
- Ethics
- Leadership

Meta-Learning
“How we reflect and adapt”
- Metacognition
- Growth Mindset