„We are all surely in agreement that the task of education ... was, is, and probably will remain, preparing young people for life.

If this is in fact the case, then education (including university education) is now in the deepest and most radical crisis of its crisis-rich history.” (Zygmunt Bauman)

“What the forms of modern life ties together is their fragility, temporality, vulnerability, and tendency toward constant change.” (Zygmunt Bauman)
What if human life and human work will change?

The Future of Higher Education in the Digital Age

Gerald Bast
The technological revolution will massively affect social life, democracy and labor. Large parts of the now existing jobs will break away. We will (partly) have to redefine what is meant by human labor. Climate change, migration and aging societies will globally change societies and private lifes. Artificial intelligence, synthetic biology and genome editing challenge the role of humankind in the universe and its determining influence on the course of civilization. AND ALL THIS IN A FEW DECADES.
Never before in history technological revolutions changed societies and economies
- so dramatically
- in such a short period of time
- on a global scale.
JOBS IN DANGER

• TRANSPORT
• FINANCE
• INSURANCE
• SERVICE
• CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
• MANAGEMENT
• PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
• EDUCATION
• LEGAL PROFESSIONS
• MEDICAL DIAGNOSTICS
• SURGERY
WILL NEW JOBS ARISE EARLY ENOUGH?

NEW JOBS WILL REQUIRE DIFFERENT SKILLS!
MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS FOR 21st CENTURY ECONOMIES

1. Complex Problem Solving
2. Critical Thinking
3. Creativity

(World Economic Forum)
CREATIVE SKILLS

• abstraction
• working with ambiguity and uncertainty
• taking new perspectives
• contextualization
• thinking in surprising alternatives
• intuition and imagination
• COMPLEX PROBLEM SOLVING
• CRITICAL THINKING
• DEALING WITH AMBIGUITY AND UNCERTAINTY
• CHANGING PERSPECTIVES
• FINDING UNCOMMON CONNECTIONS
• APPLYING INTUITION AND IMAGINATION

ARE THESE COMPETENCIES MAIN EDUCATIONAL GOALS AT OUR UNIVERSITIES?
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THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

FOCUSING ON THE AREAS WHERE HUMANS ARE BETTER THAN MACHINES
Universities will have to undergo fundamental changes.
Aspects of HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2050
Higher Education in 2050:

- Topics rather than single disciplines
- Universities are life long learning centers
- MOOCs and more
- Artificial Intelligence and Augmented Reality
- New role for university teachers
HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2050:

• Personalized curricula
• Collaboration instead of competition
• Degrees are less important
• Drugs and bio-tech for brain enhancement
By the year 2050 the vast majority of the European population beyond the age of 18 will participate in some form of Higher Education.
NEW TYPES OF STUDY PROGRAMMES:

- adaptivity for change
- social intelligence,
- societal responsibility
CROSS-DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION

• Science & technology
• Estimating potentials of cross-fertilizing different disciplines
• Philosophy
• Socio-economic mechanisms
• Creative methods for linking knowledge and contextualizing data