The missing link: Converging Neoliberalism and the OpenCourseWare Movement

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The term "missing link" refers back to the originally static pre-evolutionary concept of the great chain of being, the idea that all existence is linked, from the lowest dirt, through the living kingdoms to angels and finally to God.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transitional_fossil#Missing_links)
Agenda

- Introduction: Who are we?
- Definition of Discourse (Foucault)
- Neoliberal Discourse in Education
- Counter-discourse: OCW
- The Missing Link: What can we learn from each other?
What is a discourse?

- ...a culturally constructed representation of social reality, not an exact copy („The Order of Things“)
- ...construct knowledge and thus governs, through the production of truth what it is possible to talk about and what is not
- discourse defines subjects framing and positioning who it is possible to be and what it is possible to do

http://www.myexistenz.com/raisondetre/foucalt.jpg
Neoliberal discourse in education

- Education as the leverage for a bright and optimistic future
- Notion of response to threats (Sputnik, Star Wars, PISA): Education symbolizes the need to catch up
- Reconstruction of public sectors: Enterprise culture (Peters) or corporate culture (Giroux)
  - mission to produce research, skills and attitudes required to compete in the global economy
- Meta-Narrative based on „excellence“, „digital literacy“, „performance“, and „enterprise“
Changing Perspectives

Shift from civic liberty to market liberty (from exchange to competition)

Production of the learner as a customer and Homo Economics

Moral regulation (care for the self)

Responsibilising the Self (Peters, 2001)
MOOCs as the prototype of neoliberal education

- Private-Public Partnerships: Public sector is being privatized
- Unbundling education because it is more efficient and productive
- Reversal of responsibility for success and failure (school → learner)
ProctorU - Outsourcing cost-intensive service to the market

http://vimeo.com/75513179
For every problem, there is a solution
The Counter Discourse
OpenCourseWare
Open Education History

2001 OpenCourseWare: sharing with others
  • Increase access
  • Improve quality of education

2011 OpenCourseWare: Sharing together
  • Educate the world
  • From OCW to Open Education

>2013 Open Education: Business approach
  • Business models
  • Unbundling
A Need for Open Education

2025

+ 3 universities every day
Sharing leads to new types of value

Sharing results to build upon each other
“standing on the shoulders of giants”

New types of value

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<tr>
<th>OER: Open textbooks</th>
<th>OCW: sharing &amp; cogenerating education</th>
<th>MOOCs: new models &amp; services</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Translation</td>
<td>- TU Delft / ITB Bandung</td>
<td>- Integration in curriculum</td>
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<td>- Remixing</td>
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The Power of the Discourse
Care of the Self vs. Sharing is Caring

- What can we learn from each other? A brief disputation
- How far would you go with sharing? Is it really rational to share?
Thank you very much for your attention!

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