Reimagine Education
Visions, Strategies and Examples

Johannes Heinlein
Vice President Strategic Partnerships
edX
edX – A Non Profit, Open source venture founded by Harvard and MIT

Expand access to quality education

Improve on campus education

Advance research
The edX Impact...

>4.5 MM+
Learners - doubling every year

196+
Countries

>12 MM+
Course Enrollments

500+
Courses

200+
Institutions, countries and corporations across the globe

100s
Blended Classes

and... Billions of data points collected that are being analyzed to better understand key pedagogical trends
Open.edX installation around the world
Higher Education “consumers” are changing

- More focused on having impact on a problem, than acquiring disciplinary depth
- Eager to learn in real-world, often global, contexts
- Entrepreneurial
- Socially aware & engaged
- Mobile
- Wired
Changes in students is being driven by external factors

Information is accessible anywhere, anytime, on any device

Students comfortable forming communities virtually as well as physically

Communication is as common online as in direct physical connections
Disruptive trends influencing higher education

Massive scale of adoption

YouTube claims 1 Billion unique viewers, 6 Billion hours of video watched each month

Increased potential and demand for disaggregating or unbundling products

Unbundled music albums into 99-cent songs, users re-aggregate into their own playlists, Streaming of content – all you can “learn” buffets?

For profit, commercial players entering education “market”

Who will drive changes, who will own data, what is the role of governments, NGO’s etc.?
We are debating these and other issues

Harvard/MIT trying to merge inside out and outside in as we realize the importance of invoking and embracing change that may come from many different directions

“Unit of learning” and impact on
  • Delivery
  • Synchronization
  • Curricular structure

Role of residential experience

Impact on spaces

Impact on financial model

Role of Technology in student “lifecycle”
From room with a blackboard

To laptop with a network connection

To the cloud and an online forum – blended with in-person hands-on activities
From podium-based knowledge broadcasting

To interactive small-group discussions

Are we orators or educators?
Broader impact on the campus - Campus

Is “chalk and talk” still relevant?

What is the role of small, interactive spaces?

Is connectivity and interaction media increasingly important?
Broader impact on the campus - Libraries

Are they a space to store reference material?

Are they spaces for collaboration and study?

Are they spaces for active learning?
   A “maker space”?  

Courtesy Limor Fried
The Future...

Questions and Answers
If learning happens anywhere at any time, how will content delivery change? How drives change?

1. What is the added value of a residential experience? How much of learning should be completed in a residential setting?

2. What is the “right” size of module for learning? And how should these modules be bundled?

3. How can communication and interaction be strengthened if students are physically and temporally dispersed?

4. How should a degree / certification be completed? With less residential time? Or with breaks over an extended period? Or …?

5. Who controls and owes data? Who defines learning pathways?

6. Where is change coming from, how to embrace it?

7. To what extent is change driven by ICT? ICT supportive or disruptive; enabling or a change agent?
THE FUTURE – AN OVERVIEW

Research into what works and what doesn’t must be part of the equation, data is your friend. Ownership of data and appropriate use of data is critical.

Unbundling of time, function and content – changes to educational model; the when, by whom and how

Flexibility and localization is critical, but focus on “federated” model through regional, country and institutional partnerships

Adoption of open common technology standard(s) will prevent fragmentation into multiple incompatible standards – risk mitigation and avoiding dilution of investments

Both open (online) and blended learning … Blended Learning needs to be an integral part of experience

Professional Education, High School, Curricular Pathways – content marketplaces

Financial sustainability - scale matters!

Focus on federated model through regional, country and institutional partnerships
THE NEXT GENERATION CLASSROOM

Changes to educational models are here to stay