



‘Oxford Debate’

‘How do you see the University of Future?’

We propose a really special discussion platform for experts, ‘heavyweights’ and regional leaders of the educational services market.

Declared topics:

The main person in University: student or professor? ‘From teacher-centered to a student-centered teaching model: can we achieve? Possibilities and prospects. Difficulties’

Speaker - Prof. Kyriakos Athanasiou, Emeritus Professor, University of Athens, President of State Scholarship Foundation, Greece

Summary of Speech/ December 18th, 2018

It seems that we are now entering a new era, where following the introduction in the middle school system of methods of teaching that shift the focus of instruction from the teacher to the student, the time has come that they are to make their entrance into the Higher Education systems, as well. To make this possible, there has been a strong tendency in recent years, for a pronounced shift towards the use of inquiry in science class, but combined to the integration of the whole tradition of constructivism, aiming to *Conceptual Change*.

Although, traditional ways of teaching helped to move humanity forward and built civilizations, student-centered teaching seems to be a necessity for the new meta-constructivist era, since today’s young men and women live in a new reality, of New Techs, multimedia, social media, globalization, and so on. It is suggested, therefore, that contemporary students deserve active learning procedures that, most of all, will make them eligible on how to sieve and evaluate the information.

We have all experienced recently a situation where the notion that Portuguese, Italians or Irish, Greeks and Spaniards we are all PIGS. And we are all experiencing the idea that everything in the world has to be ruled by monetarism: a situation that tends to replace very much the idea of a United Europe that was built upon humanitarian values. We have to wonder about how the ideology of racism and fascism at such large extents overtook in so short time throughout the old continent. All together, I believe that what we call Education has to become Literate, *Paedia*

again. Let us have the illusion that student centered teaching strategies will help people to learn how to sieve knowledge again. And take back the ability to throw away mental garbage.

Finally, I will try to highlight some of the issues or topics that are relevant to these teaching interventions. Higher education professors apart from being specialists in their field, from now on they need to acquire some other skills: i.e. they must become well familiar with all the pedagogical strategies under discussion. And, secondly, I will try to support the idea that no matter their specialty and field of teaching, they are to be well educated in Epistemology, History and Philosophy of Science, as well.