Inhabiting Hypercomplexity: The Challenge of Rethinking Education

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Complexity is not an option, it is a fact of life
Complexity = Knowledge = Power
Why should we rethink education?
Let’s look at this last point first: What do we mean by hypercomplexity?
THE PASSAGE FROM COMPLEXITY TO HYPERCOMPLEXITY

- Increase of variables and concauses
- Increase of the parameters to be considered
- **Technological (and digital) innovation** → Acceleration of dynamics and processes
- **Communication** → Playing an ever more strategic role
“The traditional ‘borders’ between studies in the scientific fields and in the humanities have in fact been completely done away with, owing to the extraordinary scientific discoveries and the continual accelerations brought about by technological innovation, which renders even more unavoidable the urgency of an education/formation which teaches complexity and critical thinking (logic).”
The challenges and dilemmas of (hyper)complexity:

- **PARADIGM SHIFT** and approach to COMPLEXITY →
  **CULTURAL EVOLUTION DETERMINES BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION**

- **INTERDISCIPLINARITY**
  MULTIDISCIPLINARITY  
  (the urgency of a SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVE)

- Person/organisms – Environment – vital spaces –
  The **ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**  
  (interpenetration/osmosis/contamination)

- INFORMATION (Big Data, open data etc.) and KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY (knowledge sharing?) →
  (but) **LIMITED RATIONALITY**

- **INTERPRETATIVE RISKS** → REDUCTIONISM E DETERMINISM → ...and «shortcuts»
Other risks ... (of not rethinking education)

- «Simulation of communication»
  (Dominici, 1996)
- «SIMULATION OF PARTICIPATION»
  (Dominici, 2000 and further works)
- «Citizenship without citizens»
- «Technological innovation without culture»
- CULTURAL GAP (irreversible)

The so-called digital revolution, at the moment, is an opportunity for élites → open architecture(s) and «closed» networks.
## False Dichotomies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>False Dichotomies: Dominici P., 1998 and further works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATURE</strong> ➔ <strong>CULTURE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATURAL</strong> ➔ <strong>ARTIFICIAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUMAN</strong> ➔ <strong>TECHNOLOGICAL</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIND</strong> ➔ <strong>ENVIRONMENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CULTURE</strong> ➔ <strong>TECHNOLOGY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUMANISTIC STUDIES</strong> ➔ <strong>SCIENTIFIC STUDIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ART</strong> ➔ <strong>SCIENCE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMAGINATION</strong> ➔ <strong>RATIONALITY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMOTION</strong> ➔ <strong>RATIONALITY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CREATIVITY</strong> ➔ <strong>RATIONALITY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THEORY</strong> ➔ <strong>PRACTICE/RESEARCH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KNOWLEDGE</strong> ➔ <strong>COMPETENCES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOFT SKILLS</strong> ➔ <strong>HARD SKILLS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FORM</strong> ➔ <strong>CONTENT/SUBSTANCE</strong></td>
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How can we rethink education?
THE GREAT MISTAKE: although we acknowledge the strategic relevance of digital skills, these are not sufficient for the building of new professional profiles.

Digital transformation is a complex and multidimensional function → the risk that the “human” (social, relational) factors have once more been neglected or underestimated is very high.
Speaking of “risks and opportunities”:

When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills.

-- Chinese proverb
Thank you very much for your attention. I look forward with great pleasure to further collaboration in the future.

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