



Anticipation Services



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair
in Anticipatory Systems



UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy

Futures Literacy as the Literacy for the 21st century

Roberto Poli

Do we REALLY need Futures Literacy?




Do we **REALLY** need Futures Literacy?

NO



If you are indifferent to what might happen, if whatever happens is ultimately irrelevant and does not touch you, then you have no reason to work with the future and become a future literate.

But if the different situations are not the same for you, if you have preferences and you would like your life to take a certain turn rather than another, then working with the future is simply essential to try to get closer to the future that you prefer.



A vibrant forest scene featuring a dirt path with stone steps, moss-covered rocks, and lush green ferns. The background is filled with dense trees and foliage.

Futures

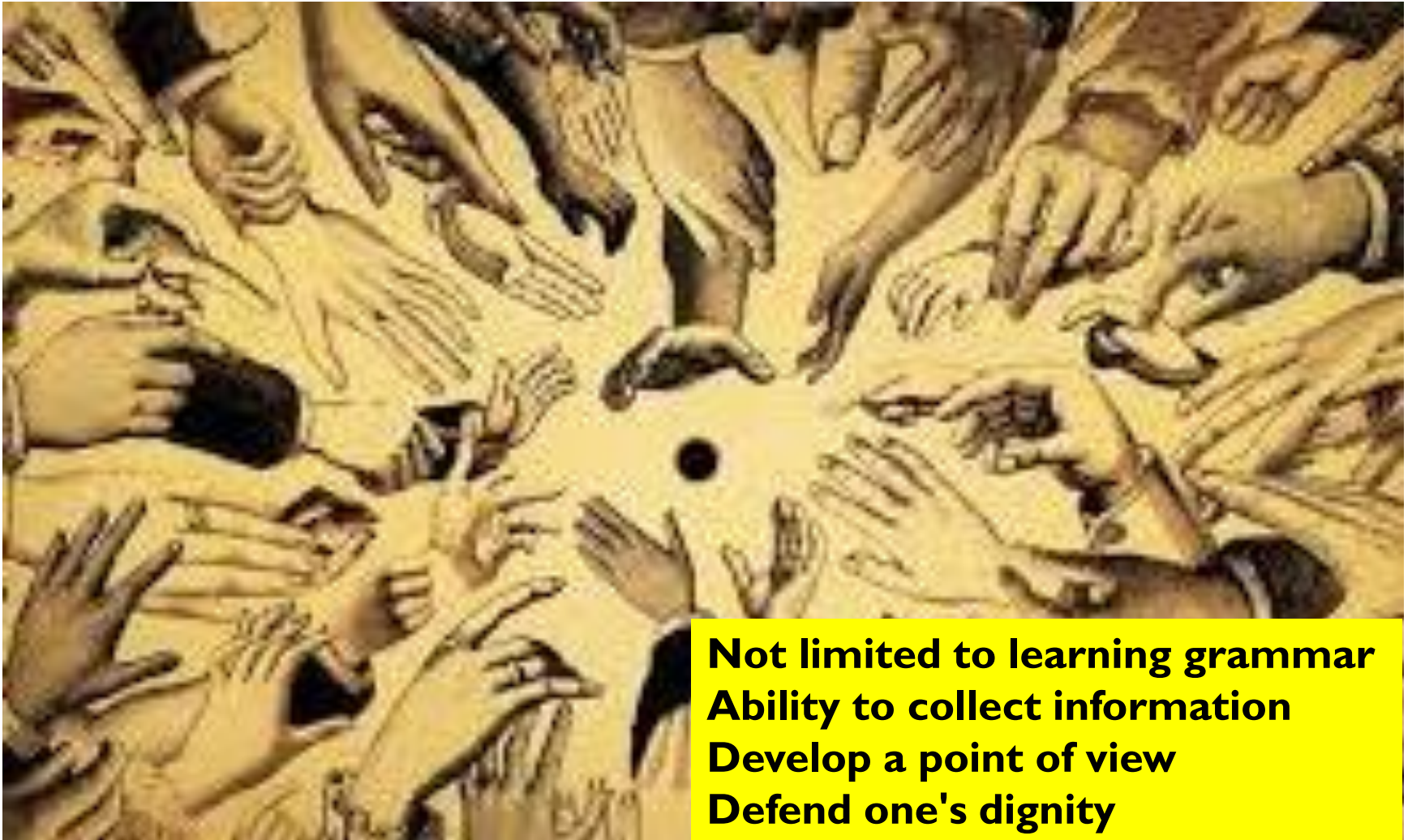
Literacy

A lush forest scene with a dirt path, moss-covered rocks, and vibrant green ferns. The path is made of dirt and has some wooden steps. The rocks are covered in green moss. The ferns are bright green and have a feathery appearance. The trees are tall and thin, with some bare branches. The overall scene is very green and natural.

Futures

Literacy

What is Literacy?



**Not limited to learning grammar
Ability to collect information
Develop a point of view
Defend one's dignity**




What is Literacy?



A tool of freedom

**Not limited to learning grammar
Ability to collect information
Develop a point of view
Defend one's dignity**



What is Literacy?



**A tool of freedom
For everyone!**

**Not limited to learning grammar
Ability to collect information
Develop a point of view
Defend one's dignity**



Futures

Literacy

A lush forest scene with a dirt path, mossy rocks, and ferns. The path is made of dirt and has some wooden steps. The rocks are covered in green moss. There are many green ferns in the foreground and background. The trees are tall and thin, with some bare branches.

Futures

Literacy

Futures Literacy

Literacy for the 21st century
Capacity to manage uncertainty
For everyone

Different types of future
Different ways to use the future



Why Futures Studies?

Uncertainty



Why Futures Studies?

Uncertainty



Uncertainty is a friend!



Understanding Futures Studies

The Problem

- **When information "from the past" is no longer sufficient to understand what to do**
- **Increase the information base**
- **But where to get more information?**

**Learn to use
the future in
the present**



Futures studies

Complicated	Complex	Anticipatory
Risk	Uncertainty	Anticipation
Megatrend	Exploration	Anticipation
Forecast	Foresight	Anticipation



Three mistakes:

1. identification between foresight and FS
2. conflation between foresight and anticipation
3. Lack of a multi-layered framework

Where raising uncertainty comes from?

Uncertainty



Please, don't say that uncertainty depends from changes!



The big fracture



- **Acceleration: technological–social–cultural**
- **The pace of change has changed**
- **1970s: the difference emerges between systems capable of further accelerating and systems unable to do so**

Finance–Technology–Science

Politics–Education–Law



The big fracture



Finance–Technology–Science

Politics–Education–Law

- **Structural difference, not a contingent one**
- **Rethink politics, education and law or accept that other players take their role**

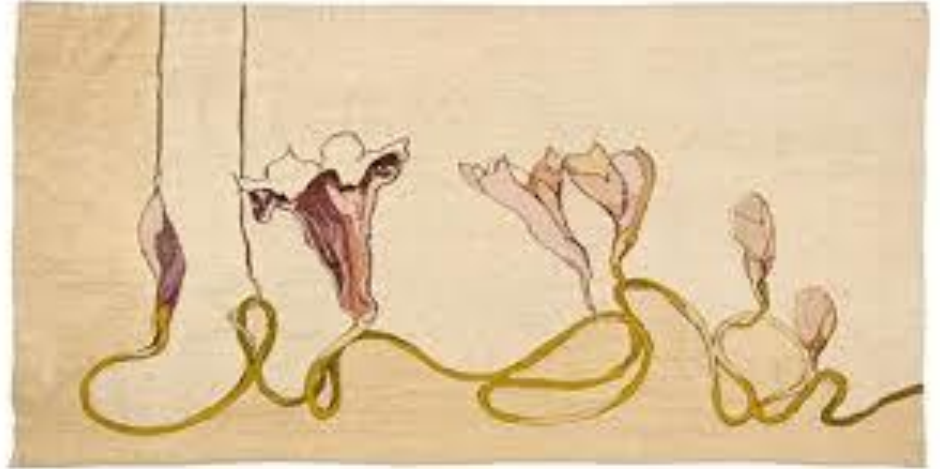


Fracture or metamorphosis?

That is

**Once the damage is "repaired",
shall the previous situation
come back?**

**Or, something new has begun
to dawn?**



Experimentum mundi

**Legacy of this present:
Future and human quality**

