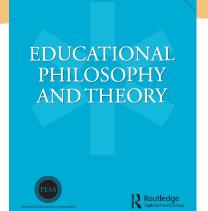
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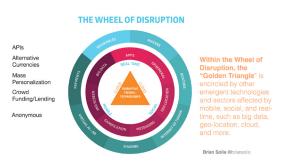
Educational Philosophy and Theory

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Critical Philosophy of Technology: Disruption, Convergence, Addiction





The notion of technological disruption was coined by Clayton M. Christensen in an article written with Joseph Bower in 1995. Christensen refined the concept and theory in a variety of books and papers over the next decade and scholars and practitioners have systematically applied the concept to many fields including higher education. Technologies such as 'AI-first', personalisation and customisation, personal data value platforms, sustainability, Industry 4.0, Blockchain, CRISPR, commercial drones, the voice economy, and quantum computing have been described as Disruptive Technology Trends For 2018-2019. There have been many reviews and criticisms and yet the concept has passed into common use. As many commentators have pointed out including Christensen himself, the idea has a lineage that goes back to Schumpeter's 'creative destruction' who adapted it from Marx. Disruption can have disastrous psycho-social consequences.

In another setting, the US National Science Foundation selected 'convergent technology' as one of ten 'big ideas' to describe the 'Nano-bio-info-cogno' paradigm that has developed over the last decade, starting in the early 2000s. These are 'convergent technologies' are purported to drive the next stage of the knowledge society. They have clear implications for education in the intermediate term with some disturbing convergences that harness info, bio and nano-technologies in relation to cognitive science driven model of education.

We might say the nano-self has arrived and employ a Foucauldian riff on 'bio-politics' to argue that research biological knowledge and information science now treats the population as a living mass to be made cognitively efficient in the chain of the nano-bio-info-cogno paradigm, disrupting our bodily identities and diminishing our control over our subjectivities in the name of optimising national cognitive advantage. While computer-based applications clearly help with the development of some cognitive skills they also demonstrate negative impacts on verbal and social skills and a curtailment of 'deep thinking', sometimes promoting anti-social behaviour and forms of technological addiction.

Does the 'post-information' 'postdigital' technology wave represent a new moral vision based on increased human-machine connectivity or does it require the surrender of our autonomous subjectivities, the re-wiring of neurological pathways, and the numbing of the biological body?



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