From teaching to learning

Alan Tuckett

ICAE

Bonn December 2011

Raymond Williams

At times of change adults turn to learning:
- to understand what is happening
- to make adjustments in the light of it
- and to shape change
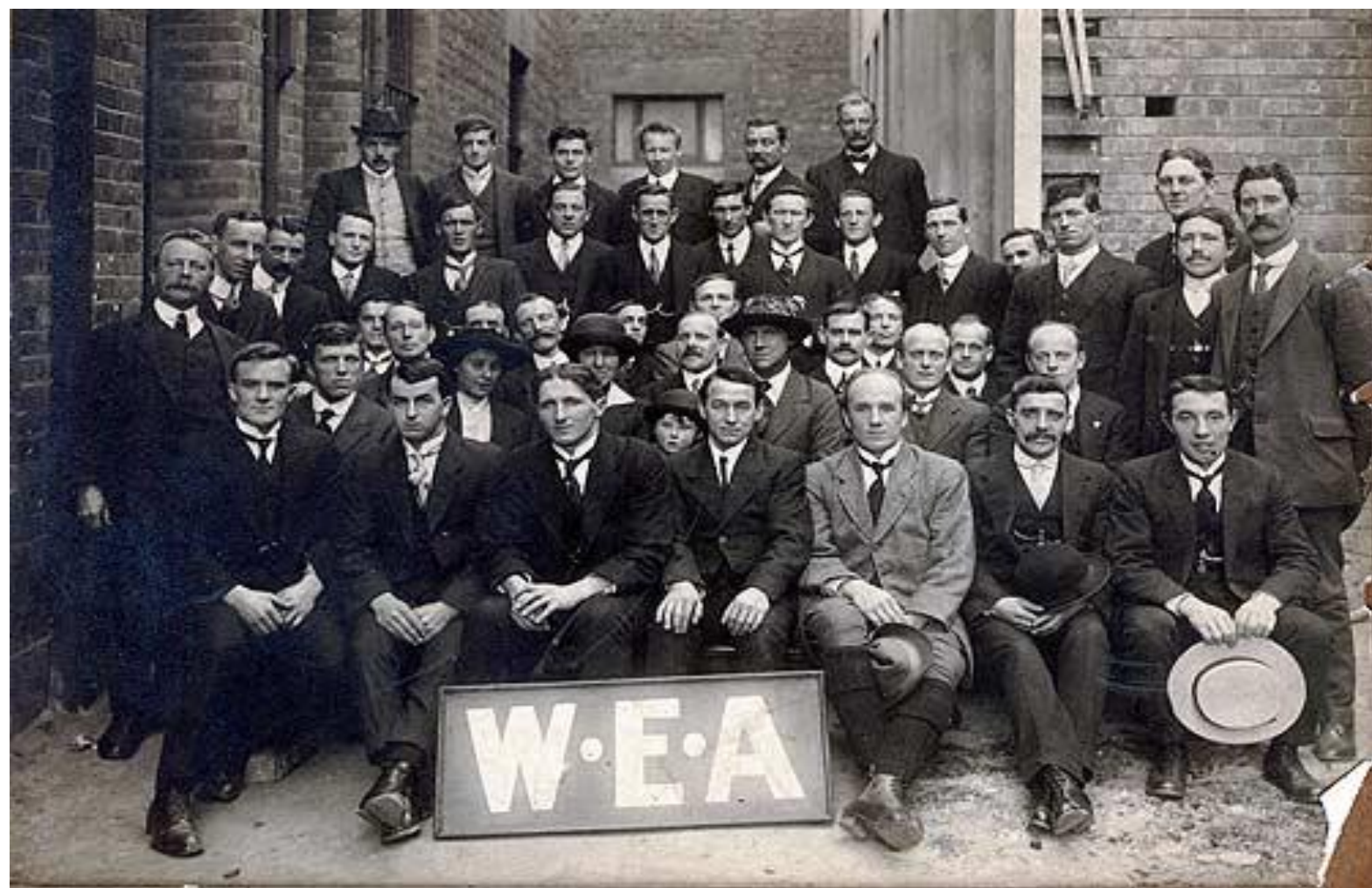
Our work is key to an active and informed democracy

Bertrand Russell on Work

Work is of two kinds: first, altering the position of matter at or near the earth's surface relatively to other such matter; second, telling other people to do so.

The first kind is unpleasant and ill paid; the second is pleasant and highly paid.

Raymond Williams - again

There are 3 strands of thinking about education in England:
• Old humanists
• Industrial trainers
• Public educators

Old Humanists

- Believe education is above all the repository of certain values

- Education is an ideal process that should resist as far as possible the pushing claims of the world

- If the values of education are extended too far they will end up diluted and destroyed.

Industrial Trainers

- The purpose of education is to fit people to earn their living
- Education is a key component of a competitive economy
- Skills for work are best learned young

'We need plumbing not pilates'
Alan Johnson

Public educators

Agree with Carlyle that:
It is the first duty of government to see that the people can think.

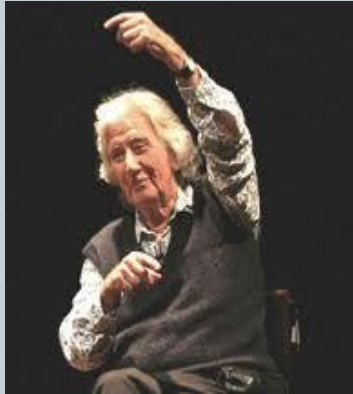They see the process of society as itself a process of education

2 sub-groups:
• Victorian philanthropists
• co-educators

Freire and the pedagogy of the oppressed

- Education is dialogical, not based on curricula
- it involves people working together, not one acting on others
- focus on praxis – action linked to values
- conscientisation
- grounded in the lived experience of participants
- the educator for liberation has to *die* as the unilateral educator of the educatees

Boal and the Theatre of the Oppressed

Who isn't there?

And what can be done about it?

Contesting marginalisation

- literacy
- English (German, Spanish…) for speakers of other languages
- women's education
- black studies
- inclusive learning
- engaging working class participants

Motivation is curriculum

"Within the adult education culture adults educate other adults by beating drums for attention, singing folk songs and shouting messages over loudspeakers; By putting posters on walls, and organising exhibits; By organising political and religious functions on street corners or in city parks; And by spreading the message over the radio and television."

Harbans Bhola

Technological change

- radio, television and mobile technology
- on-line and distance education
- open source meterials
- blended learning
- self-organised learning

Никад није касно

SerbianCafe.com

What people want to study

All subjects of current/recent learning – Top Ten, by age cohort					
17-44	%	All 45+	%	All 55+	%
Computer skills	19.3	Computer skills	31.8	Computer skills	40.6
Business studies	9.1	Foreign languages	8.1	Foreign languages	10.2
Health and medicine	8.4	Business studies	6.5	Arts	7.2
Foreign languages	4.3	Health and medicine	6.3	History	4.7
Social sciences	4.2	Arts	5.0	Religion	4.5
English language/ literature	3.8	History	3.9	Health and medicine	4.0
Engineering	3.7	Social work	3.9	Music	3.2
Science and maths	3.7	Religion	3.8	Business studies	3.1
Social work	3.2	Occupational health and safety	2.8	Social work	2.5
Communications	2.8	Communication	2.6	English language/literature	2.3

Base: all current/recent learners

Wider benefits of adult learning

- prolongs active citizenship
- inhibits onset of Alzheimer's
- learners 13% more likely to give up smoking
- learners 34% increase in racial tolerance
- learners much less likely to be politically cynical
- learners less dissatisfied with their lives

Wider Benefits of Learning Research Centre, Institute of Education

Learning has these impacts

- whatever your prior education
- whatever your social class

Average retention rates

Passive teaching methods

- 5%   lecture

- 10% reading

- 20% audio-visual

- 30% demonstration

Participatory teaching methods

- 50% group discussion

- 75%   practice

- 90%   teaching others

Adapted from National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine by Institute for Learning

The Effects of Learning

Individual

Transforming ← → **Sustaining**

Collective

Personal change

Self-maintenance

Community activism

Social fabric