

9. A Future 3 Business Education Curriculum: Building Agency for a Cooperative World

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Session Type: Presentation
Category: Research based
Audience: Those interested in business education

ABSTRACT

This presentation discusses how business educators can enact a Future 3 curriculum to cultivate student agency for cooperative roles as citizens, consumers and workers. Drawing on economics research, the presenter contrasts a Future 1 (uncritical transmission of knowledge) and a Future 2 (generic skills) with a Future 3 business education curriculum. The latter engages students with substantive knowledge and fosters criticality and pluralism. Students are then empowered to analyse policies and navigate complexities for global impact.

DESCRIPTION

This presentation explores how business education educators can enact a Future 3 curriculum to equip students with powerful disciplinary knowledge and agency to participate actively as citizens, consumers, workers and entrepreneurs in a cooperative world. Drawing on research into powerful knowledge and pedagogy in Maltese school economics, the presenter addresses the theme 'Local Action, Global Impact' by demonstrating how business education can foster global economic citizenship. A Future 1 curriculum transmits established knowledge uncritically, while a Future 2 curriculum prioritises generic skills over disciplinary depth. Both limit students' epistemic access and critical engagement. A Future 3 curriculum blends substantive disciplinary knowledge with its methods and epistemology, enabling students to think deeply in the subject. This qualitative study, grounded in critical realism, analysed teacher interviews, student focus groups, and lesson observations from Maltese secondary economics classrooms. The findings illuminate powerful knowledge and pedagogy in business education, as well as the enactment of a Future 3 curriculum through 'powerful pedagogy', using students' everyday experiences as entry points and introducing theory as an explanatory tool.

OBJECTIVES

Introduce the Future 3 curriculum framework; highlight how powerful pedagogy builds student agency for economic citizenship; challenge participants to critique Future 1/2 limitations; provide strategies to foster criticality and pluralism; and spark collaborations on Future 3 research across business education contexts.