

# The missing link: Converging Neoliberalism and the OpenCourseWare Movement

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The term "missing link" refers back to the originally static pre-evolutionary concept of the great chain of being, the idea that all existence is linked, from the lowest dirt, through the living kingdoms to angels and finally to God.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transitional\\_fossil#Missing\\_links](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transitional_fossil#Missing_links))

# Agenda

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- ☐ **Introduction: Who are we?**
- ☐ **Definition of Discourse (Foucault)**
- ☐ **Neoliberal Discourse in Education**
- ☐ **Counter-discourse: OCW**
- ☐ **The Missing Link: What can we learn from each other?**

# What is a discourse?

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<http://www.myexistenz.com/raisondetre/foucalt.jpg>

- ☐ ...a culturally constructed representation of social reality, not an exact copy („The Order of Things“)
- ☐ ...construct knowledge and thus governs, through the production of truth what it is possible to talk about and what is not
- ☐ discourse defines subjects framing and positioning who it is possible to be and what it is possible to do



# **Neoliberal discourse in education**

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- ☐ **Education as the leverage for a bright and optimistic future**
- ☐ **Notion of response to threats (Sputnik, Star Wars, PISA): Education symbolizes the need to catch up**
- ☐ **Reconstruction of public sectors: Enterprise culture (Peters) or corporate culture (Giroux)**
  - ☐ **mission to produce research, skills and attitudes required to compete in the global economy**
  - ☐ **Meta-Narrative based on „excellence“, „digital literacy“, „performance“, and „enterprise“**







# MOOCs as the prototype of neoliberal education



<https://s3.amazonaws.com/audreywatters/moocsters.jpg>

- ☐ Private-Public Partnerships:  
Public sector is being privatized
- ☐ unbundling education because  
it is more efficient and  
productive
- ☐ Reversal of responsibility for  
success and failure (school →  
learner)

# **ProctorU - Outsourcing cost-intensive service to the market**



**For every problem, there is a  
solution**

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**BoostMyGrades**

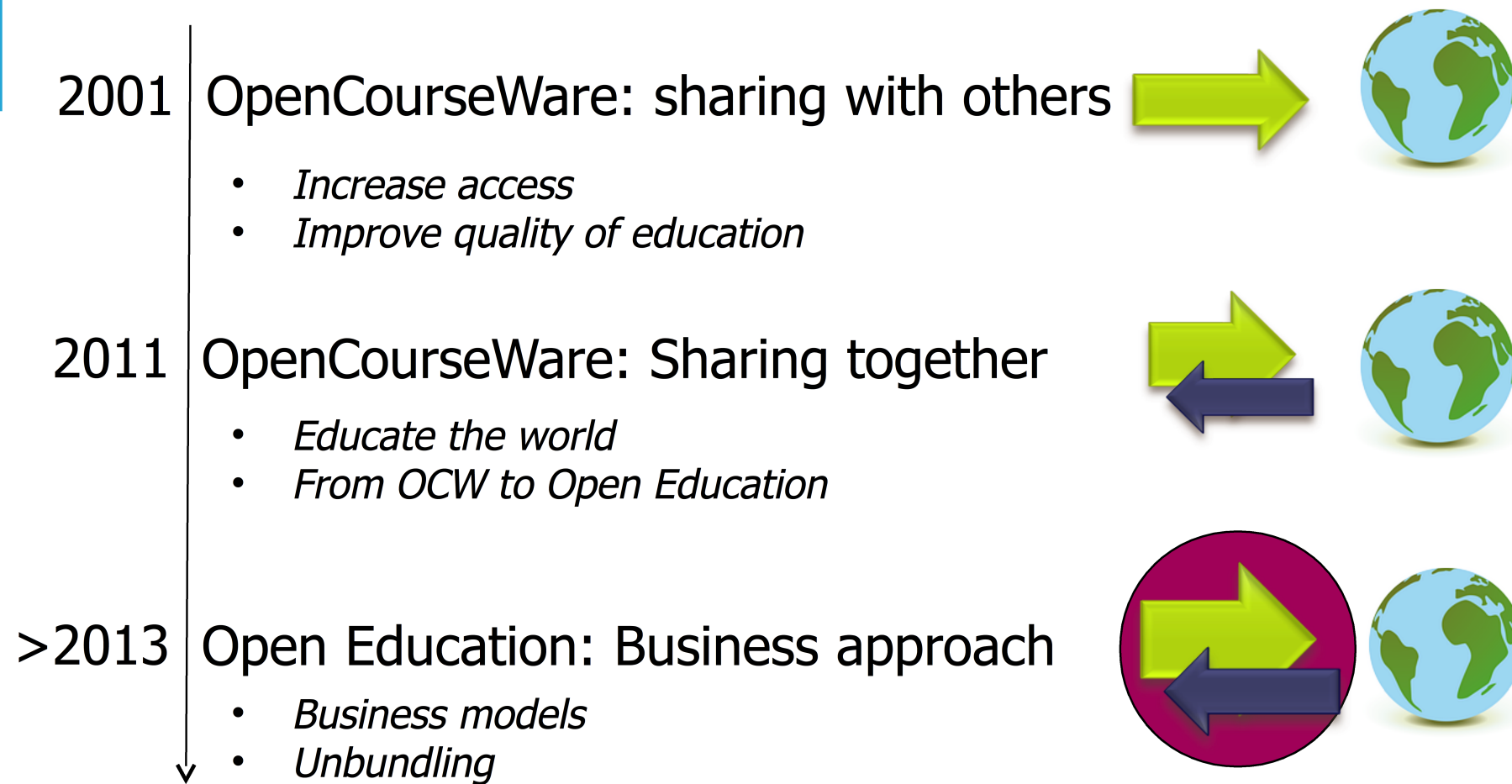
# The Counter Discourse OpenCourseWare

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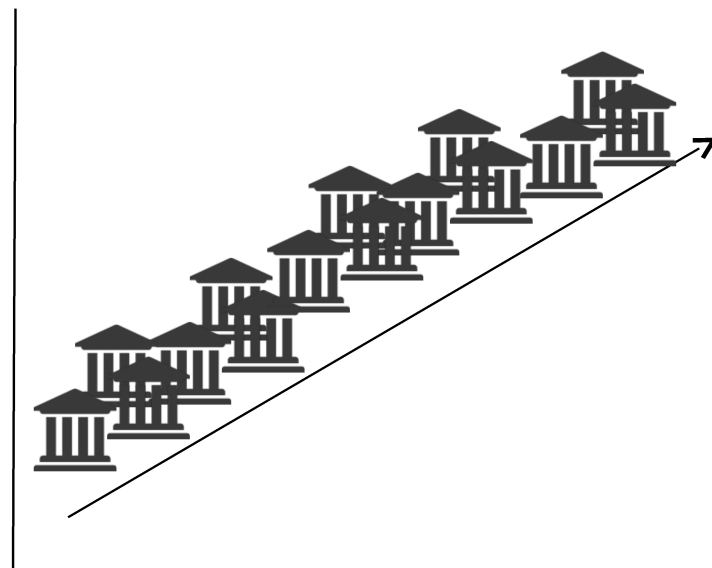


# Open Education History





# A Need for Open Education



2025

+ 3 universities every day



Log in Register

## THE CAPE TOWN OPEN EDUCATION DECLARATION

- Home
- Read the Declaration
- Sign the Declaration
- View Signatures
- Translations
- FAQ
- Press
- Related Initiatives
- Comments

### The Cape Town Open Education Declaration

The Cape Town Open Education Declaration arises from a [small but lively meeting](#) convened in Cape Town in September 2007. The aim of this meeting was to accelerate efforts to promote open resources, technology and teaching practices in education.

Convened by the Open Society Institute and the Shuttleworth Foundation, the meeting gathered participants with many points of view from many nations. This group discussed ways to broaden and deepen their open education efforts by working together.

The first concrete outcome of this meeting is the [Cape Town Open Education Declaration](#). It is at once a statement of principle, a statement of strategy and a statement of commitment. It is meant to spark dialogue, to inspire action and to help the open education movement grow.

Open education is a living idea. As the movement grows, this idea will continue to evolve. There will be other visions initiatives and declarations beyond Cape Town. This is exactly the point. The Cape Town signatories have committed to developing further strategies, especially around open technology and teaching practices.

The [Declaration](#) has already been signed by hundreds of learners, educators, trainers, authors, schools, colleges, universities, publishers, unions, professional societies, policymakers, governments, foundations and other kindred open education initiatives around the world. We encourage you to [join us](#).

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SHUTTLEWORTH FOUNDATION  
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

# Sharing leads to new types of value

Sharing results to build upon each other  
*“standing on the shoulders of giants”*

**SCIENCE**

## New types of value

### OER: Open textbooks

- Translation
- Remixing

### OCW: sharing & cogenerating education

- TU Delft / ITB Bandung

### MOOCs: new models & services

- Integration in curriculum
- Assessment
- Certification
- Research

# **The Power of the Discourse**

## **Care of the Self vs. Sharing is Caring**

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- ☐ **What can we learn from each other? A brief disputation**
- ☐ **How far would you go with sharing? Is it really rational to share?**



**Thank you very much for your attention!**

**Feel free to contact us**

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