

## **RE: Is Education the only thing that needs future proofing?**

I think that this paper by Mick McKeever uses the factories of the future as a clever metaphor for what educational institutions might eventually become. In his video, Sir Ken Robinson's takes a jaundiced view of today's schools, colleges and universities and compares them to the 18th and 19th century factories at the time of the industrial revolution. Robinson suggests that:

"We have an education system that is modelled on industrialism and in its image, with ringing bells, separate facilities and separate subjects. We educate children as batches of 12 year olds, 13 year olds, etc. It's like the most important thing about them is their date of manufacture. Sometimes children learn better individually, or in small groups rather than in full sized classes. Education is about conformity and standardisation."

Mick McKeever provides a glimpse into the factories of the future which, like the universal Turing machine, can do anything. He appears to suggest that, like the factories of the future, we can educate our students under the one roof by completely redesigning what happens under that roof. He predicts that these factories may "...continually check the material and measure how it is reacting to the transformation processes it must pass through". The parallel in education is to use continuous assessment / learning analytics ('check the material') and adaptive technologies (inform the 'transformation processes').

At first McKeever's "slower deeper drilling to harden the material" seems to be at odds with the idea of 'brain plasticity'. However, it could be understood as a manufacturing metaphor for the deep learning required to shape a solid understanding of a field of study.