

# The Best Educational Ideas in the World

## Your ticket to constructing modern knowledge

Gary S. Stager, Ph.D.

**Your tour guide, Gary Stager:** Teacher educator, author and consultant, Dr. Gary Stager, has spent the past twenty-eight years helping teachers on six continents make sense of their roles in the digital age. In 1990 he led development efforts at the world's first two "laptop schools" in Australia. Since then, Gary has worked with countless laptop schools from Maine to Melbourne to Mumbai. Stager is a Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology where he has taught since 1993 and in 1998 helped create its groundbreaking Online Master of Arts in Educational Technology degree program. In 1982, Gary created one of the nation's first computer camp programs and was the Director of Professional Development for NJ's Network for Action in Microcomputer Educator from 1983-93.

Gary was Senior Editor for District Administration Magazine, Editor of The Pulse: Education's Place for Debate and Editor of ISTE's Logo Exchange. He is a frequent conference presenter, workshop leader and keynote speaker at conferences across the globe. Dr. Stager worked with Seymour Papert to create the Constructionist Learning Laboratory at the Maine Youth Center. Gary's work with incarcerated youth in Maine was the subject of the PhD. dissertation from the University of Melbourne. Dr. Stager is also a collaborator in the MIT Media Lab's Future of Learning Group and the Executive Director of The Constructivist Consortium & Constructing Modern Knowledge.

Gary has a degree in elementary education and once studied to be a jazz musician. He has worked with public schools, private schools, gifted students, at-risk learners, homeschooling communities and numerous high-tech companies. Converge Magazine named Gary Stager a "shaper of our future and inventor of our destiny." The National School Boards Association named Gary one of "Twenty Education Leaders to Watch." Dr. Stager was a keynote speaker at the 2009 National Educational Computing Conference before an audience of more than 4,000 educators.

Most recently, Gary was the new media producer for The Brian Lynch/Eddie Palmeri Project - Simpatíco, 2007 Grammy Award Winner for Best Latin Jazz Album of the Year. Dr. Stager is also a contributor to [The Huffington Post](#).

- [Articles and papers](#) by Dr. Stager
- [Recommended books](#) for modern educators and school leaders
- [Professional Development](#) & Gary Stager
- Gary Stager's personal [blog](#)
- [Constructing Modern Knowledge](#) institutes
- [The Constructivist Consortium](#)
- [School Wars](#) (Gary Stager's cover recent cover story about public education policy)
- Gary Stager in [The Huffington Post](#)
- [ImagineIt<sup>2</sup>](#) documentary featuring Gary Stager

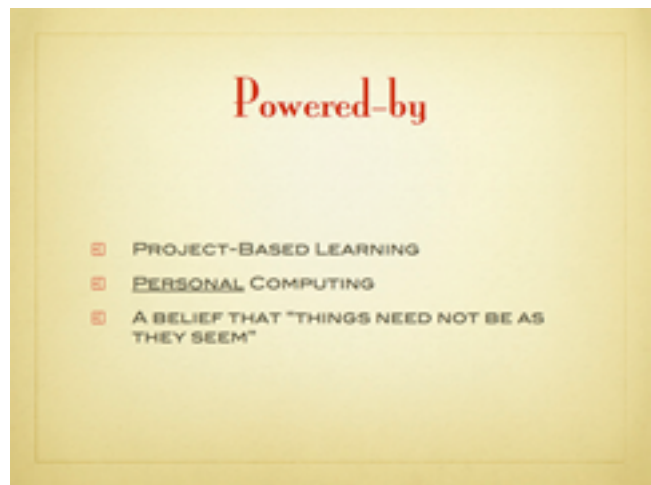
### Powerful Ideas – Common Principles

- Respect for each learner
- Authentic problems
- Real tools & materials
- Expanded opportunities
- Learning is natural
- Urgency
- Commitment to social justice & democracy



### Fueled by

- Project-Based Learning
- Constructionism
- Personal Computing



### The Grand Tour

#### Fab

[Watch](#) the Scientific American Frontiers Program: [You Can Make it On Your Own](#)  
PBS Show [Transcript](#)

#### [Neil Gershenfeld's Home Page](#)

Includes links to his projects, books and biography.

#### [MIT Media Lab: Neil Gershenfeld](#)

A Faculty Profile of Neil Gershenfeld, Director, Center for Bits and Atoms and Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences.

#### [Technology Review - The Programmable Building](#)

The MIT Media Lab's Neil Gershenfeld tours the building of the future, where interchangeable power sockets, switches and appliances snap into the walls-then plug into the internet.



Neil Gershenfeld videos:

- [Neil Gershenfeld](#) at TED
- [Neil Gershenfeld](#) at PopTech

### [Seeing Through the Window](#)

What form will new human/computer interfaces take? An excerpt from Gershenfeld's 1999 book, *When Things Start To Think*. Published on KurzweilAI.net July 27, 2001.

Educational software mentioned by Gary Stager:

- [MicroWorlds EX](#) - multimedia programming environment for use across the curriculum and grade levels
- [Geometer's Sketchpad](#) - popular mathematical visualization software



## Reggio Emilia

[Books](#) about the Reggio Emilia approach

Gary Stager's [article](#) about Reggio Emilia education

Reggio Children [web site](#) - the official international web site of the Reggio Emilia approach

North American Reggio Emilia Alliance [web site](#)

A pretty good [overview](#) of the Reggio Emilia approach

- [What Makes a Good Project?](#) (2008) by Gary Stager
- [Raising Our Standards - Developing Projects that Endure](#) (2009) by Gary Stager
- [The Genius of Print](#) (2010) by Gary Stager



### “A good prompt is worth 1,000 words”

1. A good prompt, challenge, problem or motivation
2. Appropriate materials
3. Sufficient time
4. Supportive culture (including expertise)

### “Four Ways to use materials”

1. Teach a specific concept  
gears, friction, multiplication of fractions...
2. Thematic Project  
factory, amusement park, airport...
3. Curricular Theme  
Identify a problem in Sub-Saharan Africa...
4. Freestyle

### Robotics

[Gary Stager’s robotics web site](#) containing reference materials, ordering advice and project inspiration

The [Pico Cricket](#) - fantastic robotics construction kit that appeals to girls and supports interdisciplinary learning from the Playful Invention Company

### Student Leadership and Empowerment

Generation YES [web site](#)

Generation YES [blog](#)

Taking-IT-Global [web site](#)

Taking-IT-Global [education edition](#)

[Child Power: Keys to the New Learning of the Digital Century](#) by Seymour Papert

Seymour Papert [speaks about Generation YES](#)



## One Laptop Per Child

[Laptop resources](#) by Gary Stager

[AALF](#) - web site of the Anytime Anywhere Learning Foundation (news, links, events, professional development)

Gary Stager's role in the history of classroom-based "laptop learning" is documented in the book, [Never Mind the Laptops: Kids, Computers and the Transformation of Learning](#), by Bob Johnstone. (Book)

One Laptop Per Child Foundation [web site](#)

OLPC founder, Nicholas Negroponte videos:

- [Nicholas Negroponte makes 5 predictions in 1984](#)
- [Nicholas a TED Negroponte 2006](#)
- [Nicholas TED Talk Negroponte 2008](#)
- [Nicholas Negroponte bring the \\$100 laptop to children in war-ravaged Columbia](#)



## Constructionism/Seymour Papert

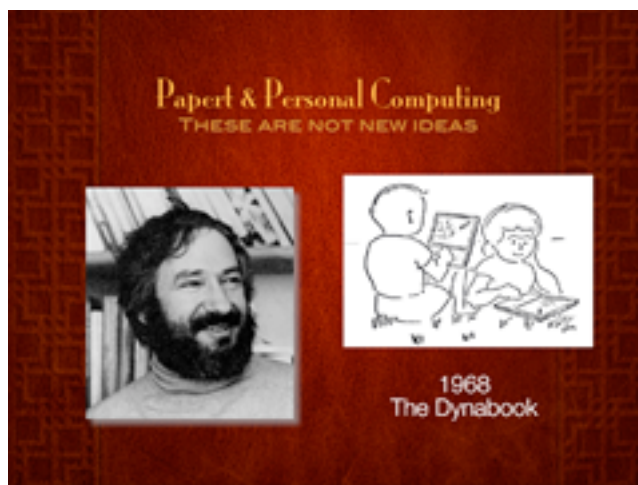
[Planet Papert](#) - a collection of links to media and texts by the father of educational computing

Seymour Papert's [web site](#)

[Books](#) by Seymour Papert

[The Original Twenty Things to Do With a Computer](#) (1971) by Seymour Papert & Cynthia Solomon

[Teaching Children Thinking](#) (1971) by Seymour Papert



## Venezuelan Youth Orchestra

2009 TED Prize [Wish](#)

- 2009 TED Prize Ceremony - [Part 1](#)
- 2009 TED Prize Ceremony - [Part 2](#)

[60 Minutes profile](#) of Gustavo Dudamel and "La Sistema"

Fantastic [El Sistema](#) documentary (DVD)

[The Promise of Music](#) (DVD)



Gary S. Stager – The Best Educational Ideas in the World

[Tocar y Luchar “To Play and To Fight”](#) (DVD)

[Missy Higgins iTunes Store](#)

[All for Believing](#) (song she wrote while in high school)

Leadership Lessons from Music:

- [Leadership Ensemble: Lessons in Collaborative Management from the World-Famous Conductorless Orchestra](#) by Harvey Seifter and Peter Economy (Book)
- [The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra Presents - Music Meets Business](#) (DVD)

## **Playing Outside - Letting the Sunshine In**

Dave Eggers’ [TED Talk](#) about community writing centers

[826 Valencia](#) community writing centers [web site](#)

[The Big Picture Schools Web Site](#)

[The Big Picture: Education Is Everyone's Business](#) by Dennis Littky and Samantha Grabelle (Book)



[Doc: The Story Of Dennis Littky And His Fight For A Better School](#) by Susan Kammeraad-Campbell (Book)

## **Additional Resources**

A selection of recent papers by Dr. Stager

- [Computing and the Internet in Schools: An International Perspective on Developments and Directions](#) - a monograph written by Gary S. Stager, Ph.D. in 1996
- [Learning Adventures: A new approach for transforming real and virtual classroom environments](#) (2008)
- [A New Paradigm for Evaluating the Learning Potential of an EdTech Activity](#) (2008)

Diane Ravitch and Deborah Meier’s [Bridging Differences](#) blog - a must-read resource for school leaders.

David Loader’s book, [The Inner Principal](#), is a terrific read.

A collection of [great videos](#) about learning & technology to watch online.

A collection of terrific [web videos](#) on the frontiers of learning and technology.

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