

The Best Educational Ideas in the World

Your ticket to constructing modern knowledge

Gary S. Stager, Ph.D.

Your Tour Guide

Gary Stager's Bio: For 27 years, Gary Stager, an internationally recognized educator, speaker and consultant, has helped learners of all ages on six continents embrace the power of computers as intellectual laboratories and vehicles for self-expression. He led professional development in the world's first laptop schools (1990), has designed online graduate school programs since the mid-90s, is a collaborator in the MIT Media Lab's Future of Learning Group and a member of the One Laptop Per Child Foundation's Learning Team. Mr. Stager's doctoral research involved the creation a high-tech alternative learning environment for incarcerated at-risk teens. Recent work includes teaching and mentoring some of Australia's "most troubled" public schools. Gary was Senior Editor of District Administration Magazine and Founding Editor of The Pulse: Education's Place for Debate. He is currently Visiting Professor at [Pepperdine University](#), an Associate of the Thornburg Center for Professional Development and the Executive Director of [The Constructivist Consortium](#). In 1999, Converge Magazine named Gary a "shaper of our future and inventor of our destiny." The National School Boards Association recognized Dr. Stager with the distinction of "20 Leaders to Watch" in 2007.

For more than a decade, Dr. Stager was Director of Professional Development for New Jersey's Network for Action in Microcomputer Education (now [NJECC](#)). He was also heavily involved in urban education outreach for Stevens Institute of Technology and leads a middle school science and technology grant program in Brooklyn, NY.

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

- [Virtual handout](#) for today's event
- [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](#)
- [ImagineIt²](#) 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

“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



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

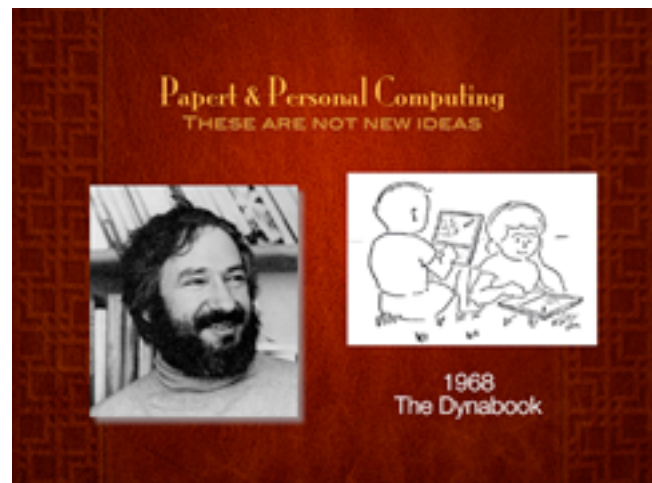
2009 TED Prize [Wish](#)

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

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

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

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