

# The Role of Universities in the Emerging ICT World

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**Chair:** Martin Vetterli, Swiss National Science Foundation



# Karl Aberer

## EPFL





**Ecole Polytechnique  
Fédérale de Lausanne  
EPFL**

**Universities and the Digital Revolution**

**Karl Aberer  
Vice-President for Information Systems**

**Symposium on Emerging Trends in  
Electronics, Montreux, 2014**

# The Digital Revolution – Big Data

## Trends

- Big Data is pervading almost every field of science and engineering
- Innovation is happening at the boundary of disciplines
  - in particular at the boundary of IT and its applications
- Innovation in IT is driven by Big Data

	IT?	Big Data?	Interdisciplinary?
Genome Editing	yes	pot.*	Life science
Agile Robots	yes	pot.**	Robotics
Ultraprivate Smartphones	yes	yes	CS – Big Data related issue
Microscale 3-D Printing	yes	pot.***	Materials
Mobile Collaboration	yes	yes	CS – Big Data related issue
Smart Wind and Solar Power	yes	yes	Energy - CS
Oculus Rift	yes	pot.****	CS – Big Data related issue
Neuromorphic Chips	yes	yes	CS - Life science
Brain Mapping	yes	yes	Life science - CS
Agricultural Drones	yes	yes	Environment – Robotics - CS

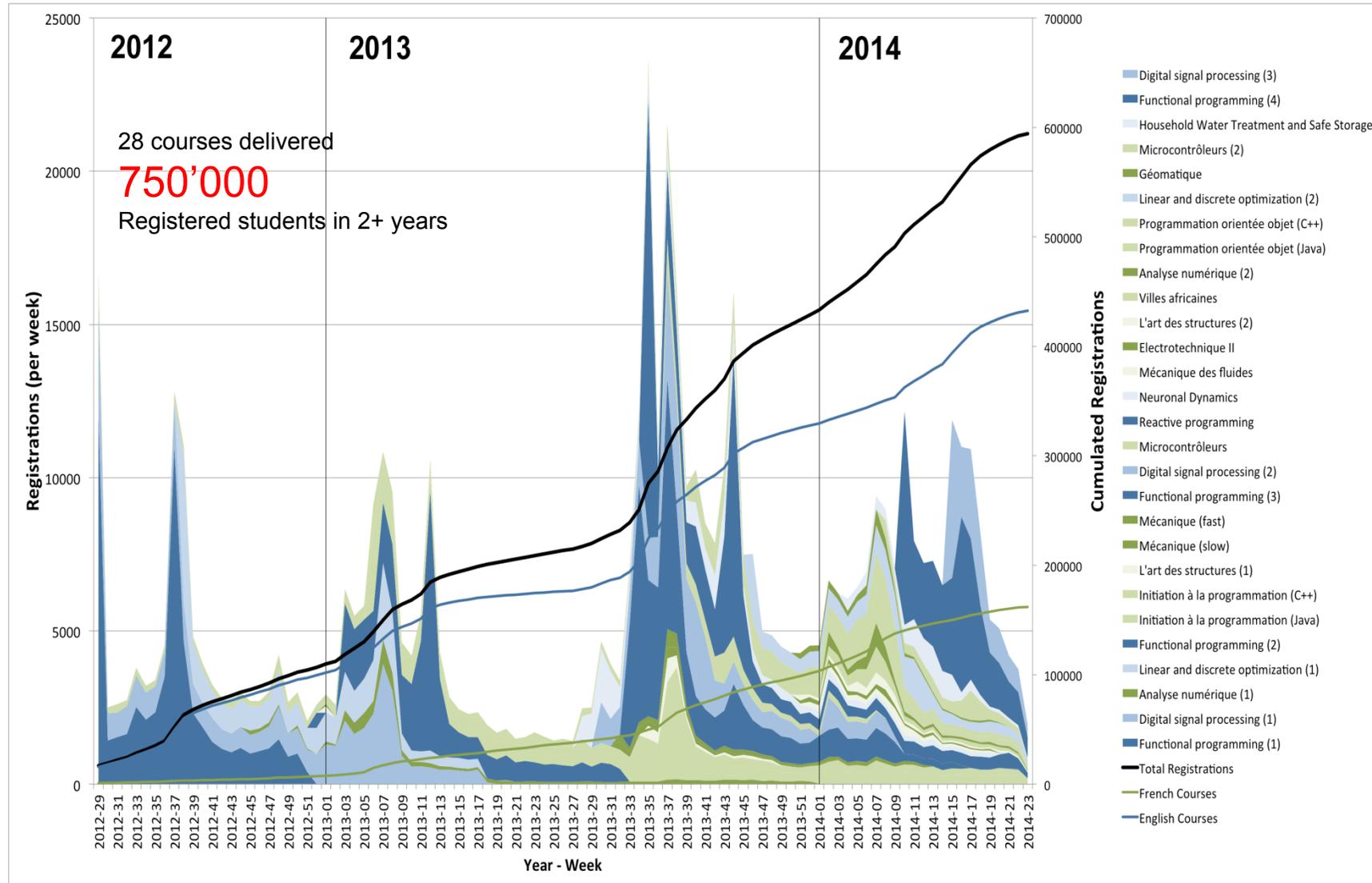
2014 breakthrough innovations,  
MIT technology review – May-June 2014

- \* Genomic data is the basis
- \*\* Google bought the company
- \*\*\* 3D model data
- \*\*\*\* data visualization



Job Postings mentioning Big Data  
Similar for data scientist, social media, MongoDB

# MOOCs at EPFL

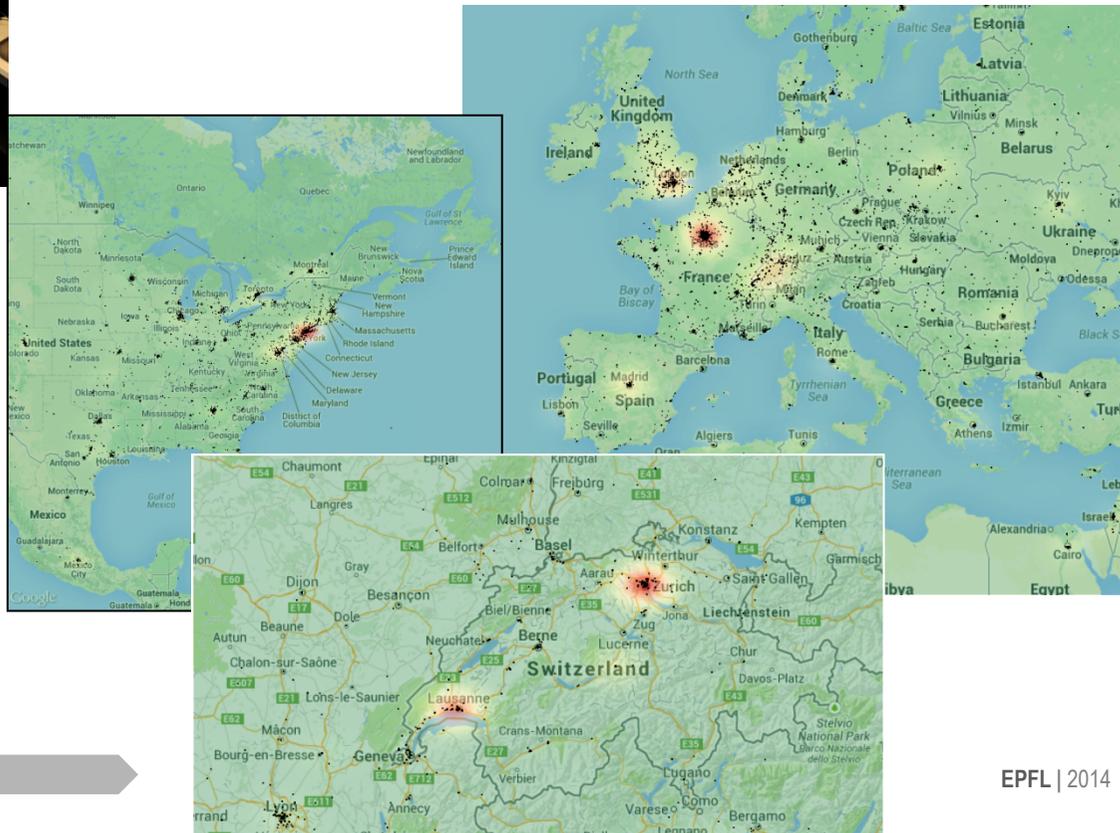


# Impact of MOOCs at EPFL

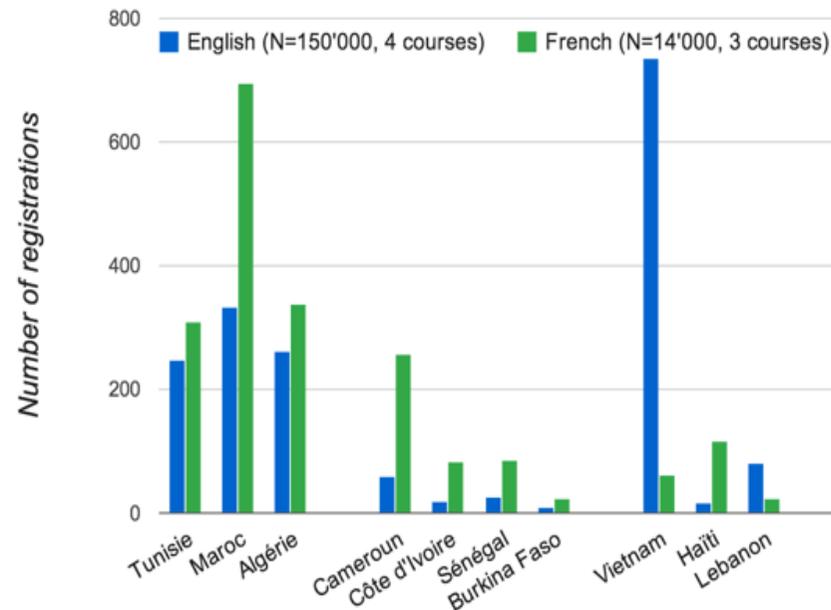
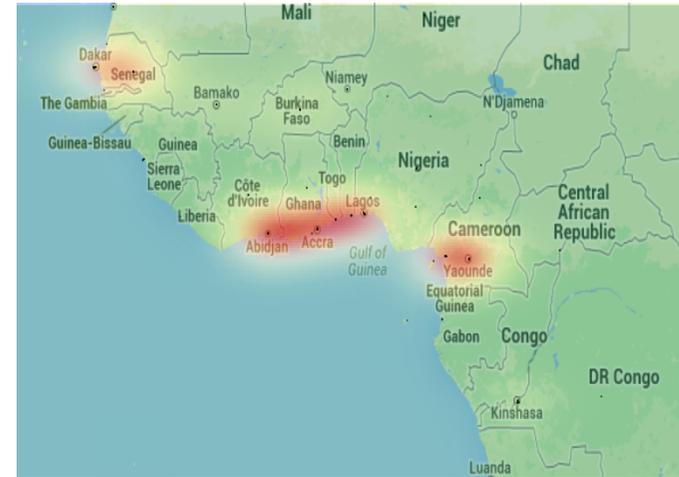


MOOCs Studio

- Global visibility
- Improving campus teaching
  - learning data
- Outreach
  - continuous education
  - developing countries



# MOCs for Africa



# Digital Humanities

## Venice Time Machine



Venice – State Archive : 73 km library!



## Montreux Jazz Archive

# The Fifth Paradigm in Research

- Fourth paradigm: data-driven science

- Simulation-based research (e.g. Human Brain Project)
- Data-Driven research (e.g. Venice project)



- Fifth paradigm: networked science

- Collaborative research (new ways to do science)
- Crowd-sourced research (involving citizens)

## The polymath blog

November 13, 2011

**Lipton's Polymath Proposal: The Group Isomorphism Problem**

Filed under: [polymath proposals](#) — Gil Kalai @ 10:16 am

Tags: [Complexity theory](#), [Group theory](#), [Richard Lipton](#)



Dick Lipton proposes the group isomorphism problem as a new polymath project.

# Challenges

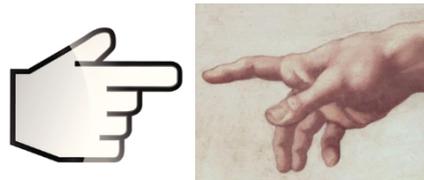
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## The digital revolution implies an educational challenge for Universities

- Rapidly increasing demand in Big Data Scientists and Digital Scientists
- Engineers and researchers have to become Big-Data savvy and open to other fields

## Objectives

- Digital Science **Research** implies convergence among disciplines
- **Education** for future Digital Science needs of science, economy and society!
- **Innovation** in Digital Science to create new jobs and companies
- Promote **Convergence** of technological and humanistic thinking in novel ways



# Mega-Trend: Dissolution of existing structures!

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## Change in organization

- Closed organization → Open organization
- Hierarchical organization → Networked organization
- Raises questions of boundaries, identity, attribution

## Examples

- Education
  - Who are the students of a university? On campus only, all online?
  - Who grants degrees to students having courses from different universities/platforms?
  - Dissolving distinction between education and professional life
- Research
  - Who claims the result of collaborative research? Who played which role?
  - Where are the boundaries between disciplines after the bio-nano-info-cogno convergence?
  - How to share scientific data resources?

# Adrienne Corboud Fumagalli

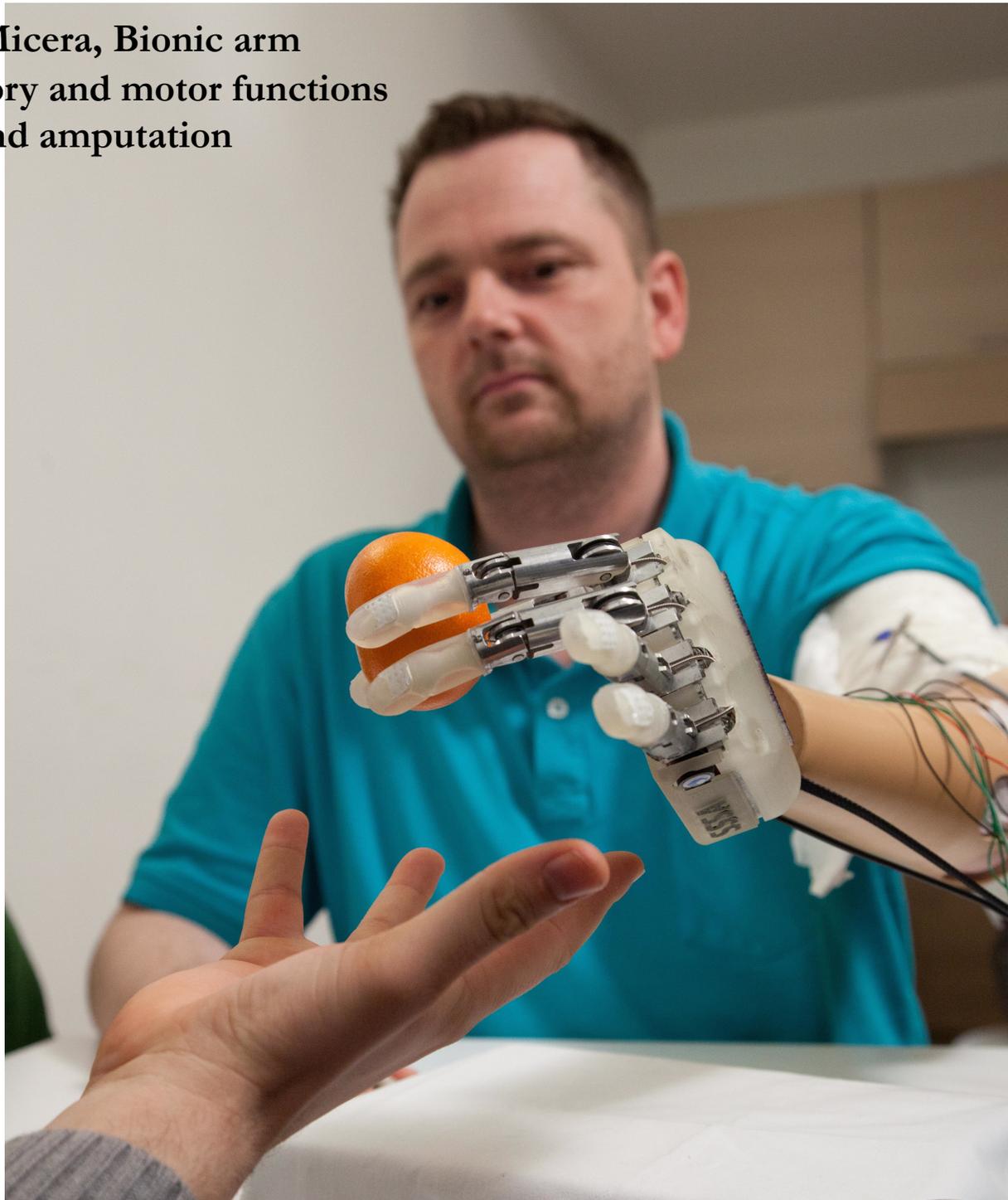
EPFL





*Entourage d'Antoine Le Moiturier:  
saint Denis, 1460/1470*

**Prof Silvestro Micera, Bionic arm**  
**Restoring sensory and motor functions**  
**after arm or hand amputation**



# Georges Gielen

## KU Leuven





# The role of universities in the emerging ICT world

Prof. Georges Gielen  
Vice-rector Science & Engineering  
KU Leuven, Belgium



# Evolution in mankind



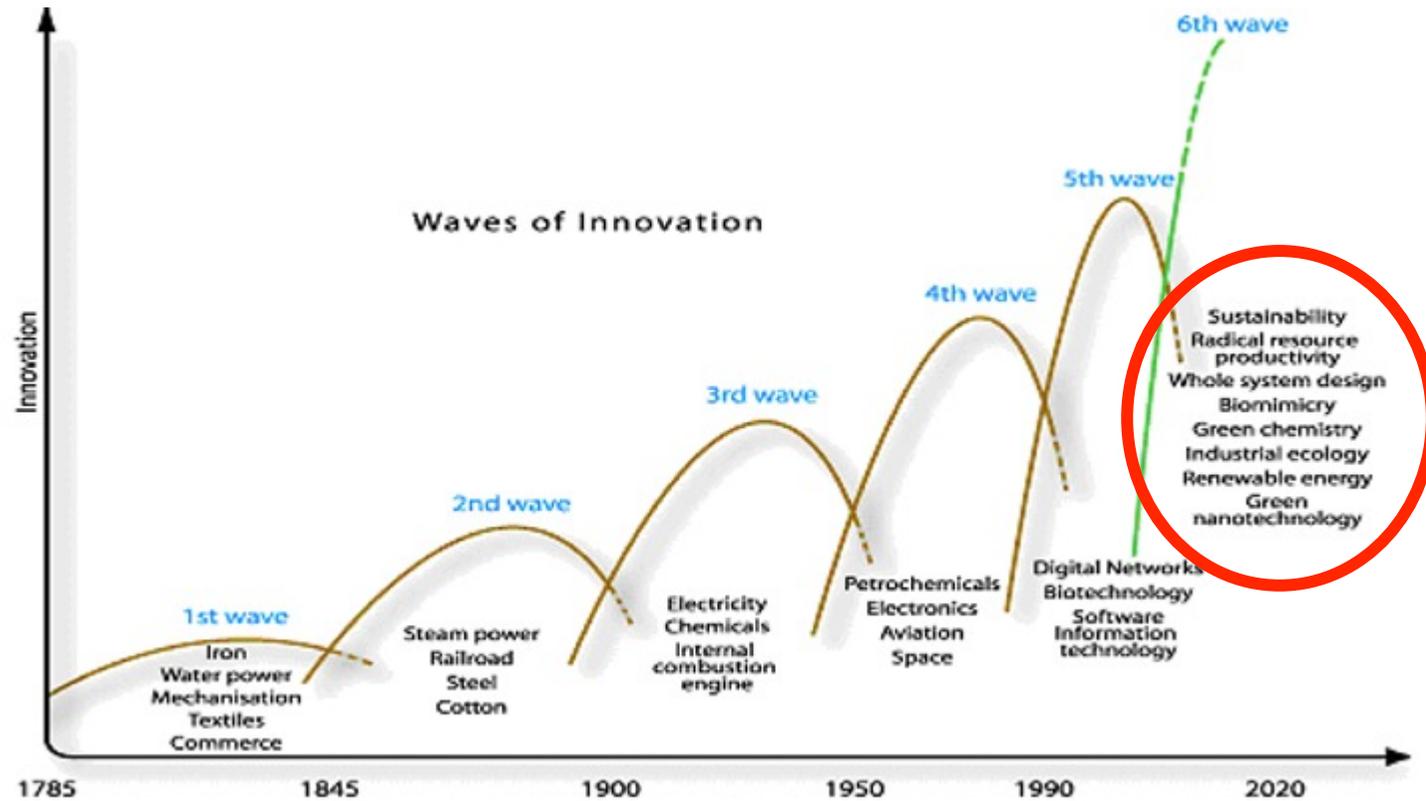
# Ubiquitous role of electronics



**The smart world !!**

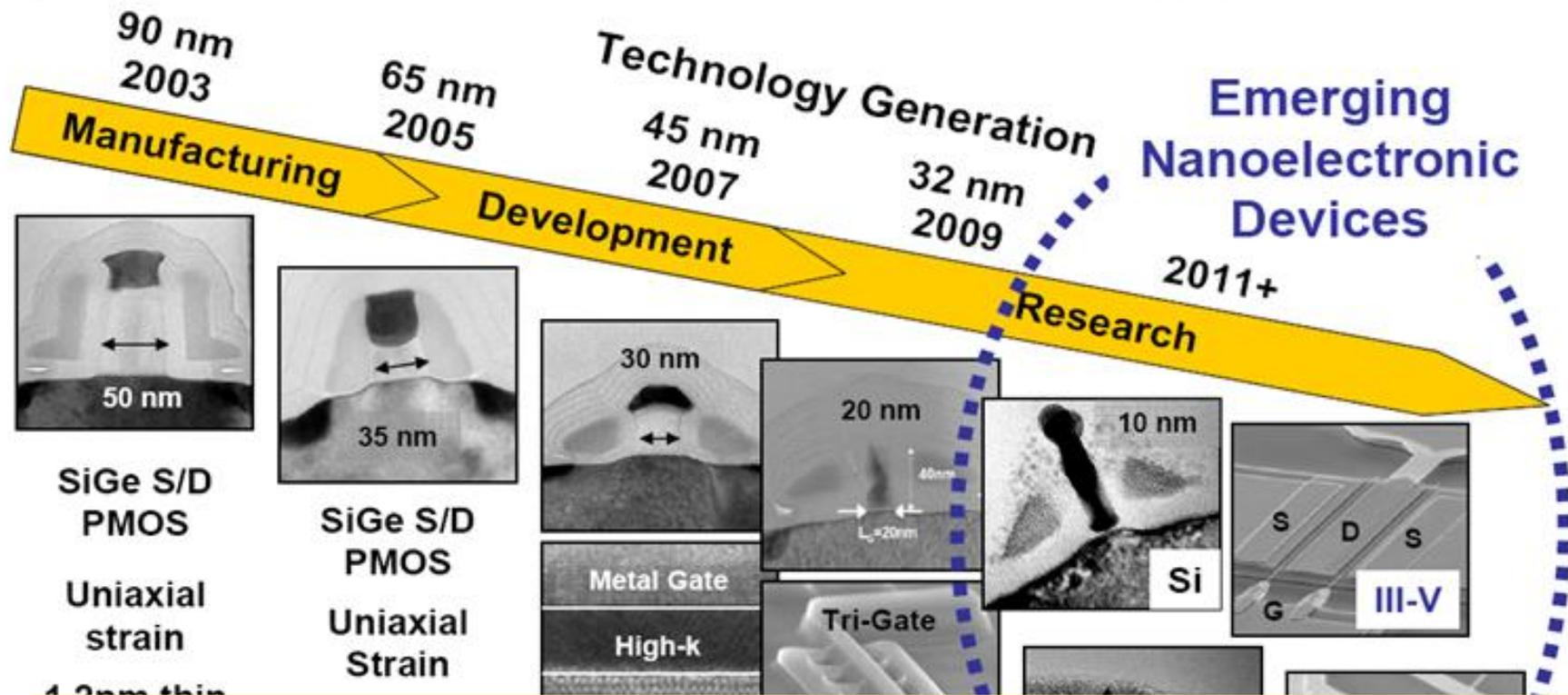
**How about 2050 ??**

# Waves of innovation



[Kondratieff – Schumpeter – Smihula]

# Transistor Nanotechnology



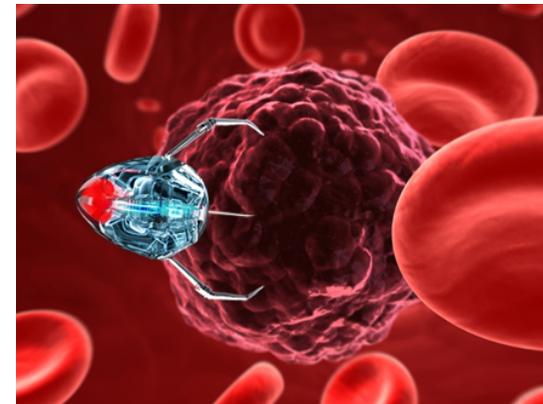
**which device(s) to use and study in 2020 – 2030 – 2040 ?**

*Note: Future options subject to change*

# Academic education

How to educate our youngsters for their future career ?

- stimulate their interest to address societal problems by means of technological innovation
- growing complexity of systems
  - learn system thinking
    - teach principles of “engineering design”
  - interdisciplinary :
    - connect electronics / ICT to the biological
- which technology to use ?
  - technologies continue to evolve and to emerge
  - need to learn basic principles
    - regardless of the SoA implementation device

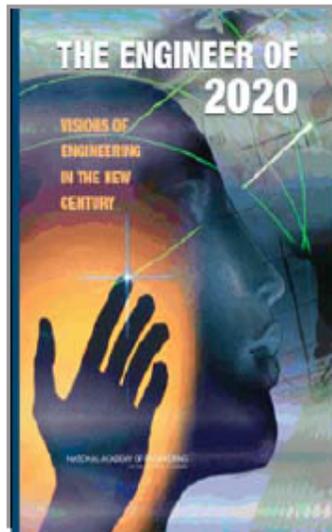


# Rapport 'The engineer 2020'

## A Vision of the Contexts for Engineering in 2020

### Emergence of new fields, tools, and contexts

Examples: bio-tech, digital systems; computer systems/tools; sustainable technology; **multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity**, social, political & economic, diversity; **global markets & contexts**; interaction of engineering and public policy



## Attributes of the Engineer of 2020

- Strong analytical skills
- Practical ingenuity
- Creativity
- Communication competencies (oral, written, and cultural)
- Business, management, and leadership skills
- High ethical standards and professionalism
- Agility, resilience, flexibility

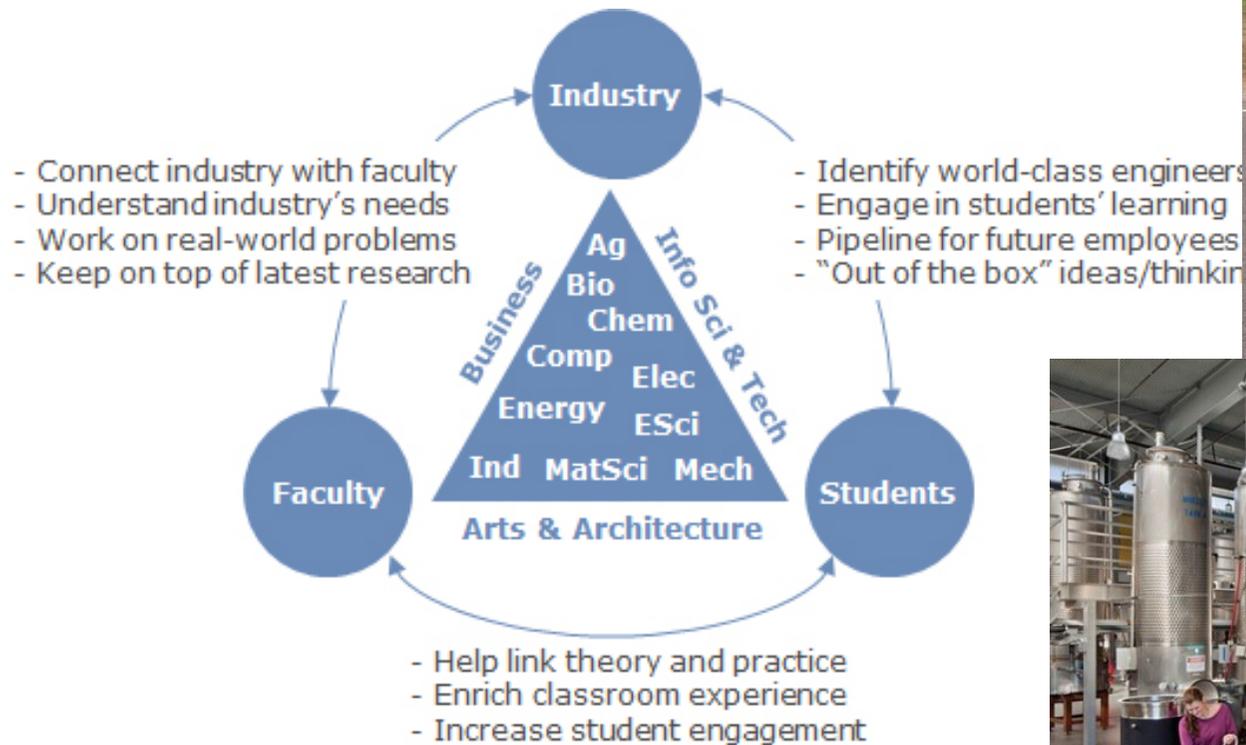
[http://www.nap.edu/download.php?record\\_id=10999](http://www.nap.edu/download.php?record_id=10999)

# Role of ICT in education

- exponential growth in science and publications
- change teaching paradigm
  - from teaching everything to teaching basic principles
  - each student specializes in limited field(s)
  - use “database” on the internet for finding all information
- use ICT for :
  - preparation courses
  - individualized learning
    - focusing on each student’s weaknesses
  - support continuous learning after graduation
- large emphasis on hands-on design projects
  - learning engineering principles hands-on

# The Learning Factory concept

- bring the real world into the classroom



[Penn State University]

**Marco Gilli**

Politecnico di Torino



Symposium on Emerging Trends in  
Electronics - Montreux  
1st December 2014

# The Role of Universities in the Emerging ICT World

**Marco Gilli**  
Rector of Politecnico di Torino - Italy



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# The Evolution of the University Model



**Education oriented university**

**Research oriented university**

**Technology transfer/  
knowledge sharing**

**Entrepreneurial oriented  
university**

**21<sup>st</sup> Century university**  
all models combined

# A New Strategic Role for Technical Universities



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

**Human capital**



**Higher education**



**Significant contributions to attract strategic industrial investments and to address complex societal challenges, mainly a sustainable future for people living on our planet**

**Societal challenges**  
Energy, Water, Food, Population,  
Climate Changes, Health care



# The Role of Universities in the Emerging ICT World



## Research and Technology Transfer

To promote a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach

To foster the creation of inter-department Labs/Centers, possibly in partnership with industry, where IT technology and methodologies are developed in multidisciplinary fields, like energy, transports, health care and others;

## Collaboration with Industry

Strategic partnership agreement with Executive Board Meeting

Common research infrastructures and joint laboratories with industries in the campus

Joint research projects (European National Regional level)

Extensive PhD programs and joint master programs

Job opportunities for talented students and researchers

## Education

A Bachelor/First level degree in IT subjects with a fundamental background in mathematics and basic sciences

Some Masters of Science/ Second level degrees, focused on IT application to interdisciplinary subjects, possibly co-designed by Academy and Industry

In particular the potentiality of MOOCs for regular and continuing education should be exploited



# Entrepreneurial Approach

To develop an **entrepreneurial approach** for both research and teaching, by promoting **incubators**, with a section devoted to interdisciplinary IT businesses, and **proper policies** for exploiting the most significant outcomes in IT research and applications.

## WHY PROMOTING INCUBATORS

To support the creation of knowledge-based start-ups with high-growth potential

**To provide consultancy services** along the process from Idea to Company

**To manage a high-profile marketplace** and network linking entrepreneurs, professionals, managers and investors

**To Offer high-quality logistics services** to host start-ups and foster motivation and collaboration.



# Steve Kang

## KAIST



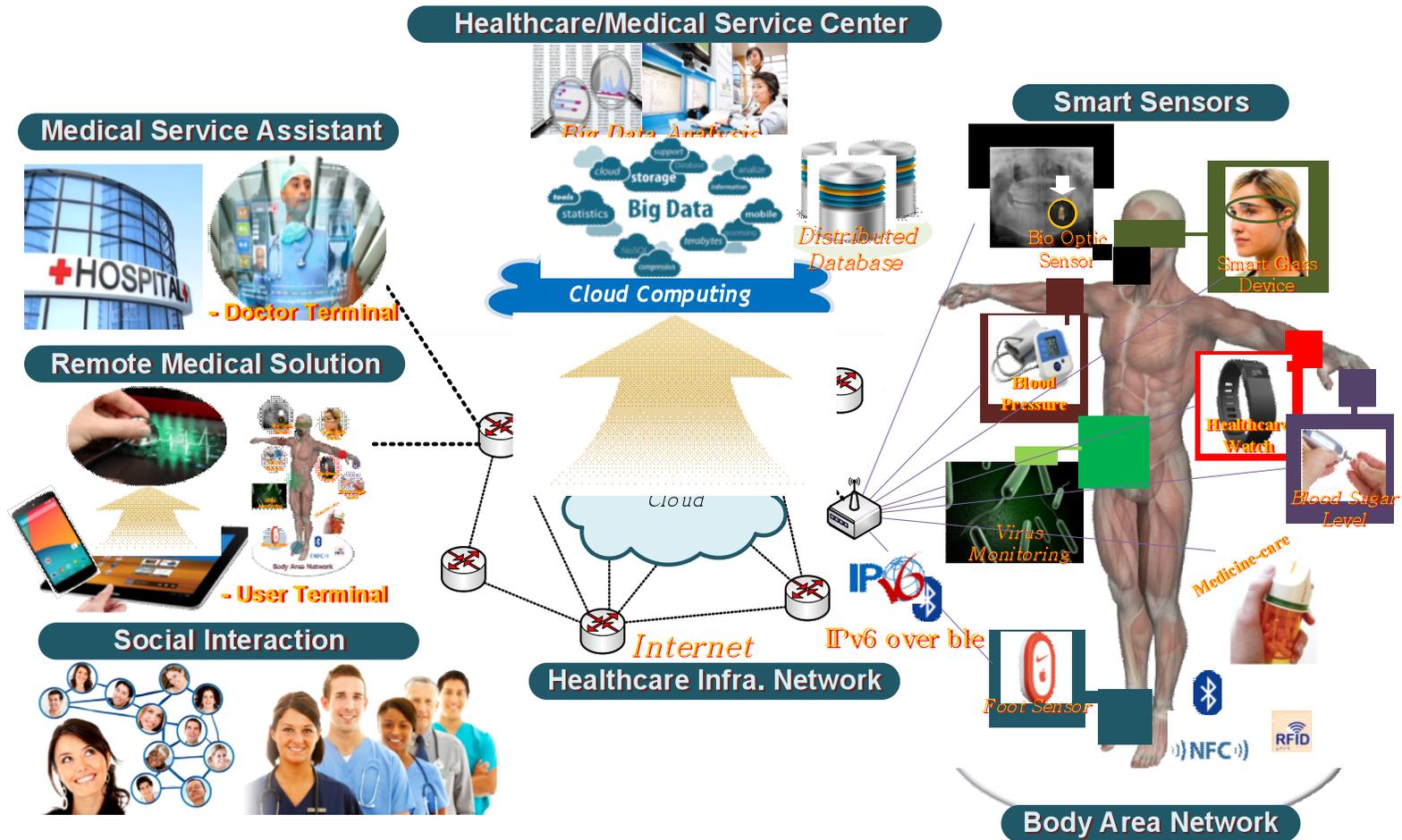


# HES with ICT (Healthcare, Education, Safety)



# Dr. M (Technologies Bridging the Gap between Hospitals & IT Industry)

- Mar. 2014 ~ Feb. 2015 (1.8M US\$ / 1 year)
- 28 faculty from College of Information Science and Technology of KAIST and MDs from Sun Medical Center



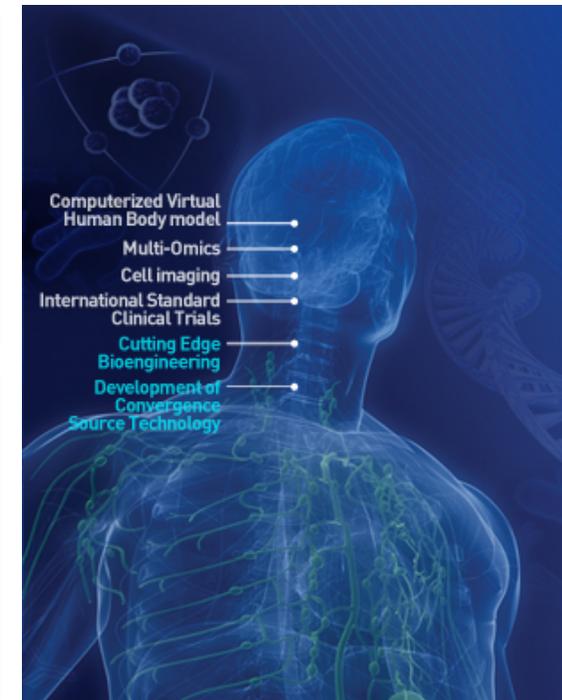
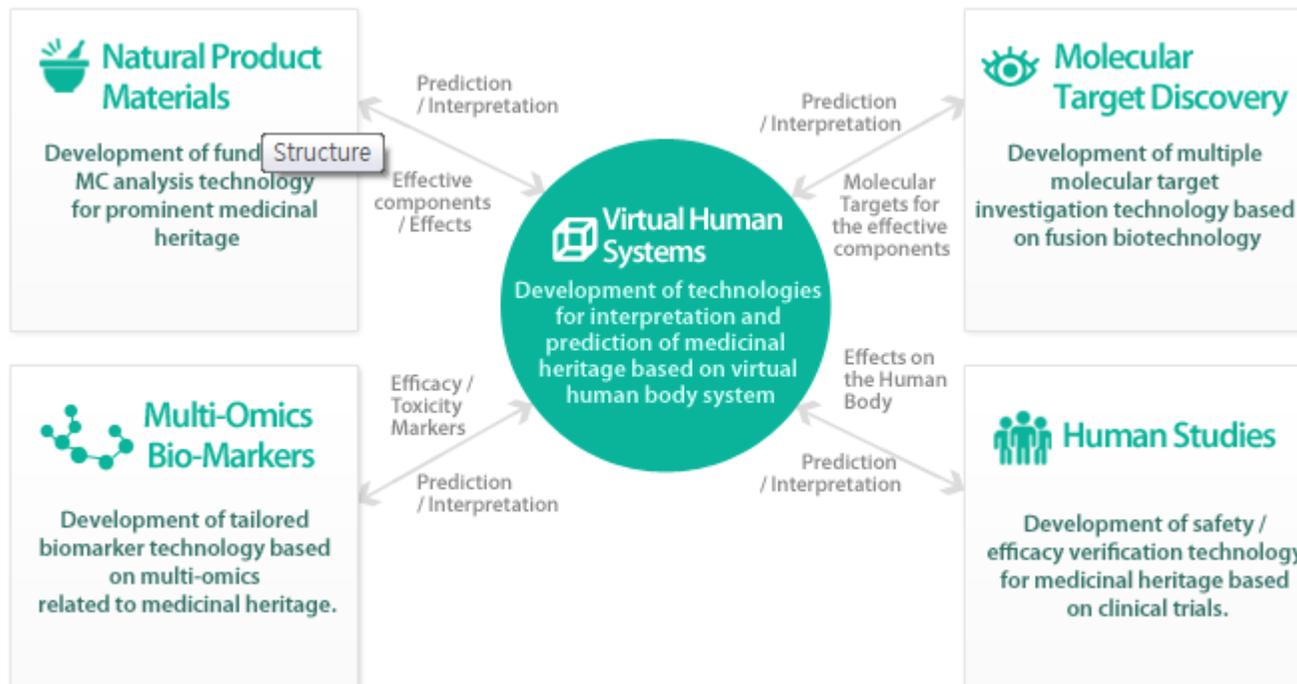
# Bio-Synergy Research Center

Sep. 1. 2012 ~ Aug. 31. 2022(10yrs)

150M US\$ Project



- To develop fusion source technology of IT and BT that can be utilized in investigating system-level MCMT(Multi-Component, Multi-Target) activation principles of natural materials empirically proven by traditional knowledge including the Dongeuibogam(1596~1610).



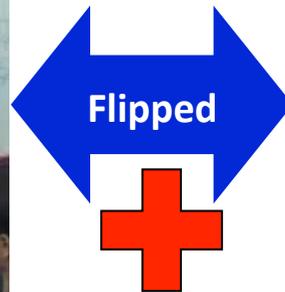
# Education 3.0 (KAIST Open Online Course, KOOC)

**Interactive Class**

**No Lecturing**

**Problem-Based, Collaborative, Active**

**Team Learning + TA Support**



**Online Self-Learning**

**Lecture Video**  
Example :Stage-Gate Model

**Lecture Slides**  
New order investment value by vessel type (in Billion Euro)

**Textbook**

**Virtual Lab**

**Quiz & HW**

**Q&A, Information Sharing, Social Network Services**

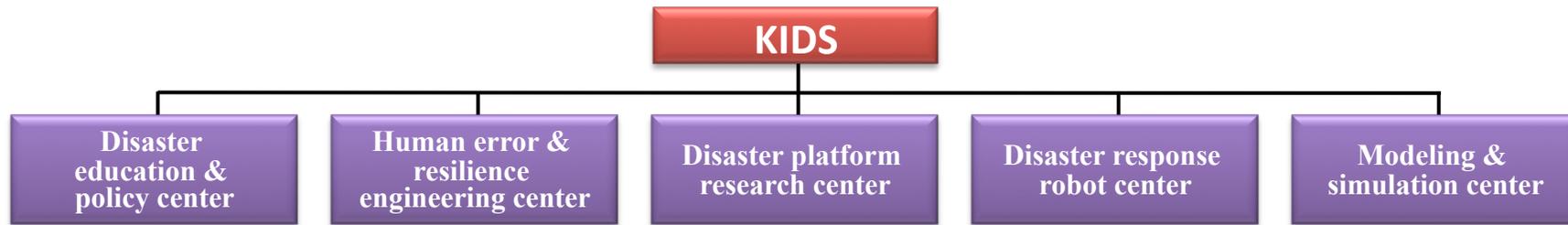
**MOOC or e-Learning**



# KIDS (KI for Disaster Studies)



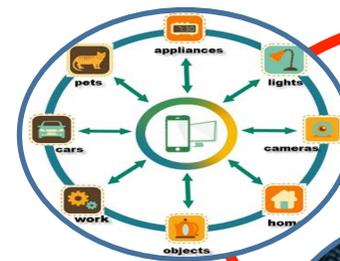
- Fusion research in the disaster sciences, with the goal reducing the hazard.
- About 70 faculty members, researchers and graduate students with specialties extending from natural science, engineering, and informatics, to social sciences.



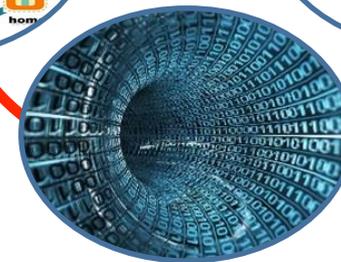
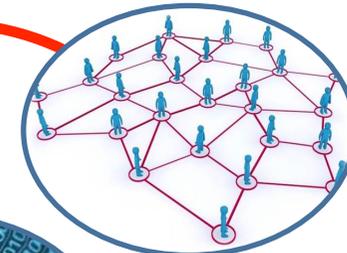
## Prediction, Detection & Containment



## IoT (Internet of Things)



## Social Computing Platform



## Big Data Technology

# Donatella Sciuto

## Politecnico di Milano





▶ POLITECNICO DI MILANO



## The role of universities in the emerging ICT world

Donatella Sciuto



## The challenge

1. The way we shape the future of our universities research and education will also shape the future of society
2. The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be (Paul Valery)
3. In today's complex rapidly changing world the only certainty is that we are facing **uncertainty**



## The evolving mission of university

- **Technology, creativity and culture**
- **Provide opportunities of developing skills and competences complementary to the specific course curriculum**
  - **Transdisciplinarity**
  - **Entrepreneurship**
  - **Intercultural knowledge**
  - **Soft skills**
  - **Social responsibility**



- **ICT technologies provide new ways of teaching**
- **Students are digital native**

**BUT**

**Big ships turn slowly**

- **Increase the use of ICT based tools for blended learning**
- **Experiment with MOOCs to bridge the gaps**
- **Increase the opportunities to work on social challenges in interdisciplinary teams**



# MOOCs to bridge the gaps

## MOOCs TO BRIDGE THE GAPS ...

### ... BEFORE



from *High school*  
to *University*

Improve and consolidate  
your **high school skills**  
before you start your  
courses at [Politecnico di  
Milano](#).



### ... DURING



from *Bachelor of science*  
to *Master of science*

Align your **acquired skills**  
to the ones of [Politecnico  
di Milano](#) Master of Science  
if you come from another  
educational path.



### ... AFTER



from *University*  
to *job*

Strengthen and enhance  
your **soft skills** to smooth  
your step into the job  
scene.



- **MOOCs for teachers: How to design blended learning courses**
- **MOOCs for all: Bet on math, Code for all**



## Concluding remarks

- **Universities need to continue imagine the future of education to empower students to make meaningful and lasting contributions to society**
- **ICT plays a role as key enabling technology today in education, research, service and entrepreneurship**

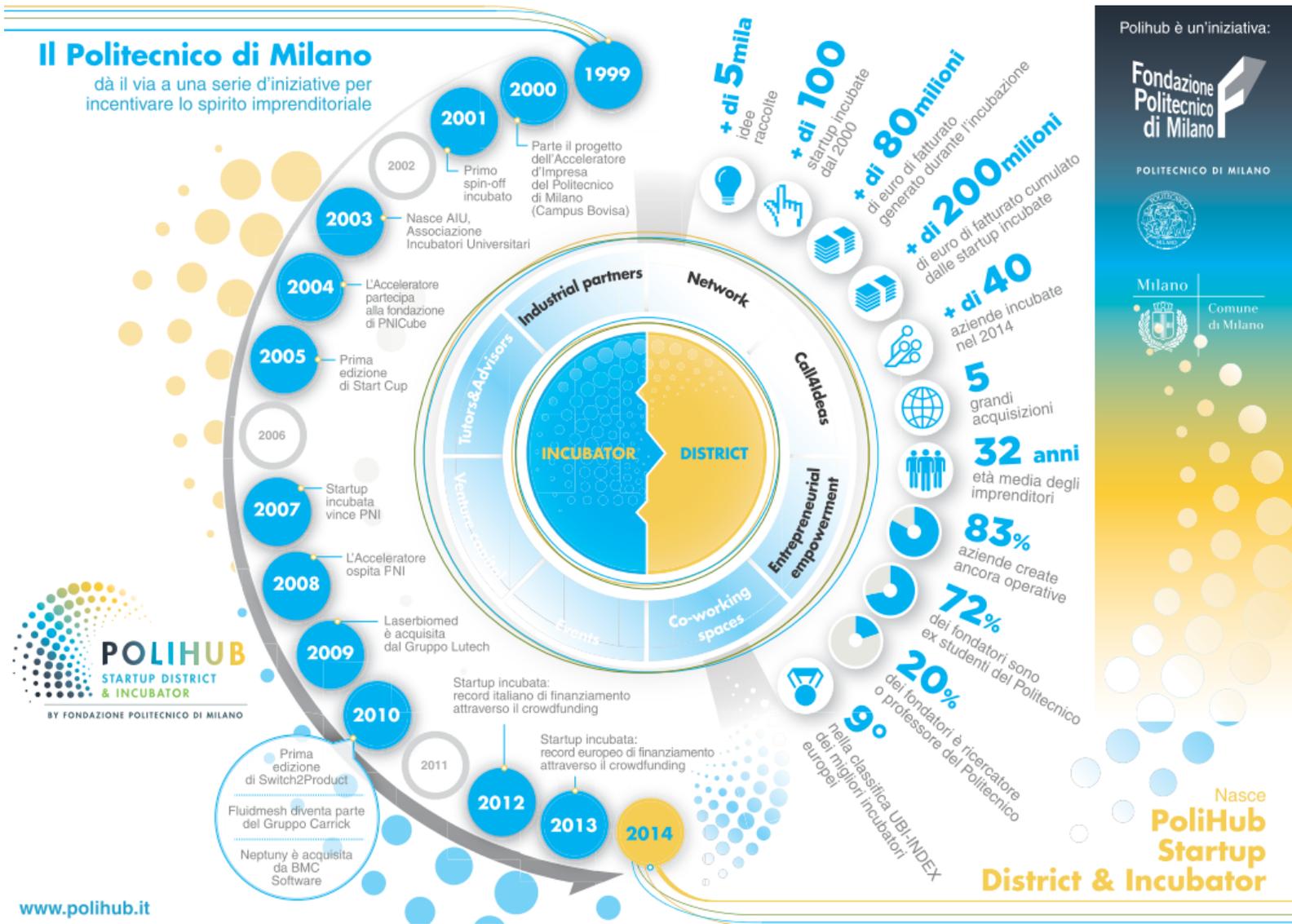
**We cannot predict the future  
but we can help in shaping it**



# Polihub

## Il Politecnico di Milano

dà il via a una serie d'iniziative per incentivare lo spirito imprenditoriale



[www.polihub.it](http://www.polihub.it)

Polihub è un'iniziativa:

**Fondazione Politecnico di Milano**

POLITECNICO DI MILANO

Milano Comune di Milano

Nasce **PoliHub Startup District & Incubator**

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