Educational Experts Seminar 2019:
“The Impact of Digitalization on the Future of Higher Education”
Boston, New York & Berlin

Program Details

ID(H)EAS: The Impact of Digitalization on (Higher) Education and Scholarship

At an unprecedented speed and scope, our societies are in the midst of a profound process of change. The digital transformation is a driving force, challenging societal structures and social processes. Digitalization reshapes forms of work and value creation, the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge, and practices of collaboration and exchange. Technological innovation contributes to new forms of division of labor between human and machine, reformulates individual learning processes, and requires the reorganization of our education systems.

Shaping this transformation of our industrial world towards a networked information society requires new concepts and processes. It also predicts novel alliances, and concerted collaboration between industry and science to create an agile educational ecosystem in the digital age. This year’s Fulbright Educational Experts seminar addresses this paradigm shift by assembling higher education leadership from both US and German institutions to collaboratively examine emerging trends in the digital age.

Key topics for the seminar include the analysis and discussion of the following:

Strategies in the Digital Age
- successful approaches for higher education institutional strategies in the digital age and the implementation of effective change management (e.g. continuing education for staff, developing a new cultural mindset, etc.)
- innovative platforms/collaborative approaches between stakeholders and higher education institutions, including partnerships in research, innovation and learning environments (e.g. between secondary schools and tertiary institutions, between universities across borders, across the public-private divide, between civil society organizations and higher education institutions)

Innovation and Potential Challenges in the Digital Age
- new technological trends and their impact on higher education (e.g. AI, VR, Blockchain, social media, creative commons, knowledge with built-in “expiration date” etc.)
- the impact of start-ups on higher education for developing innovative learning prototypes and new educational models, including new business models
Research in the Digital Age

- Big and Smart Data
- Open Science
- Crowdsourcing, Wikipedia
- Fake Facts, plagiarism, copyright issues

Skills for the Digital Age

- teaching and learning future skills, including new didactic formats, curricula reforms, new disciplines (digital humanities, etc.)
- diversification of education, including new forms of certification like micro-degrees, new formats of teaching like MOOCs, merging formal and non-formal learning

The leadership of German and US educational and scientific institutions are affected by these trends as they have the chance to shape them directly - in the way their institutions handle these transformative process themselves, by educating citizens for the digital age, and by providing and co-creating knowledge on how to master the digital transformation in academia, industry, and society. The seminar provides the opportunity for participants to mutually benefit from good practices and informal exchanges.

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