

S-TEAM News No.4

Science-Teacher Education Advanced Methods
 A phase change in European Science Education

June 25th, 2008

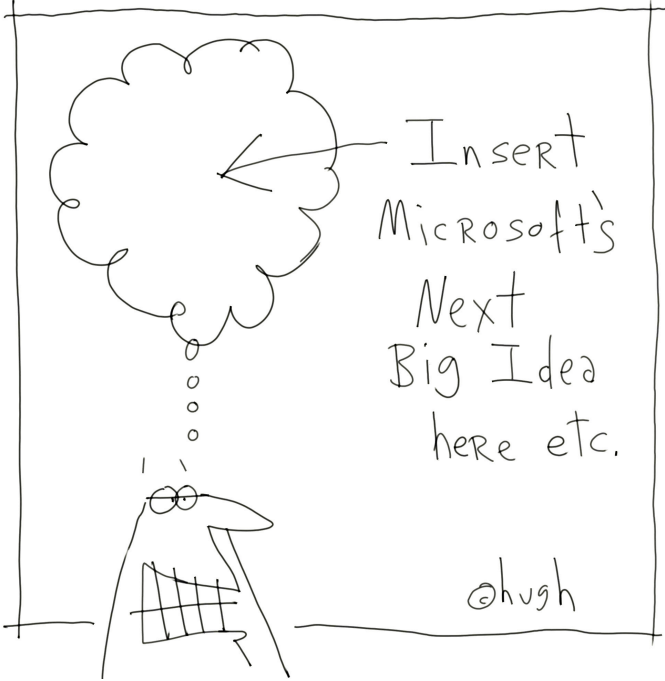
Big idea or lots of little ones?

Apologies for introducing an intellectual debate at the 11th hour but it is relevant...¹ Your views are vital to success...

Do we have to come up with a big idea, or is IBST/E the big idea, or are lots of small ideas better?

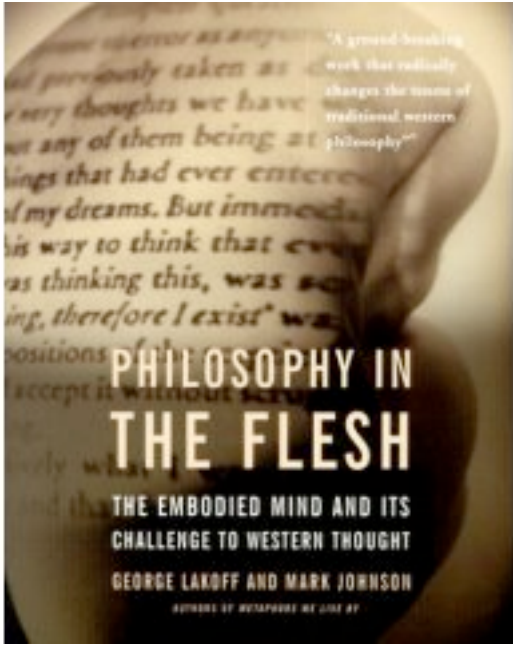
It seems to me that :

1. IBST/E is the equivalent of Windows (whatever version) - it's not one big thing but everyone thinks it is.
2. As the blog ref'd below suggests, if we're still using Windows XP or Vista in ten years time, we're still in the steam age.
3. The EU quest for magic bullets is a fantasy which we have to accept for our present purposes.
4. If there is a big idea, we need a big net to catch it (back to the fish metaphors) because it's somewhere out there, in a classroom near you.



5. The idea of a big idea is a

metaphorical schema (see book image below) which is itself open to reworking, e.g. if we



used a metaphor related to shoals or flocks for ideas....

6. A flock of sheep may be primitive, but it comes up with wool on a regular basis and is very effective at stopping traffic.

¹ http://images.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http://www.gapingvoid.com/insertmicrosoft514.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.gapingvoid.com/Moveable_Type/archives/002968.html&start=8&h=2000&w=2000&sz=212&tbnid=cVLJ-JPUbrhExM:&tbnh=150&tbnw=150&hl=en&prev=/images%3Fq%3DBig%2Bidea%26gbv%3D1%26hl%3Den%26safe%3Doff%26sa%3DG

7. So we need to be an effective flock rather than a new version of Windows.

Meanwhile back at the ranch...

Some excellent and helpful feedback already, thanks to Michel, Liselott, Doris, Andrée, Ghislaine, Jouni....and especially Hilde

1. We need to remove words like ‘concerned [with]’, interested [in], ‘explore’...
2. More precision on governance and management including representation of partners not on the management board
3. Numbers so far have been very useful and have also revealed gaps in official statistics
4. Links to other relevant organisations (eg Swedish national Centre for Education in Physics) are hugely important for dissemination value
5. Let’s walk with teachers as well as talk!
6. Importance of language in the classroom, in all senses
7. Some adjustments in WP distribution are either happening or about to happen, please keep telling me if I’ve misinterpreted your PoD and put you in the wrong place.
8. As the Bon Jovi song goes, ‘Keep the Faith’ - all this will be over soon, but speed is of the essence.
9. regards
10. Peter