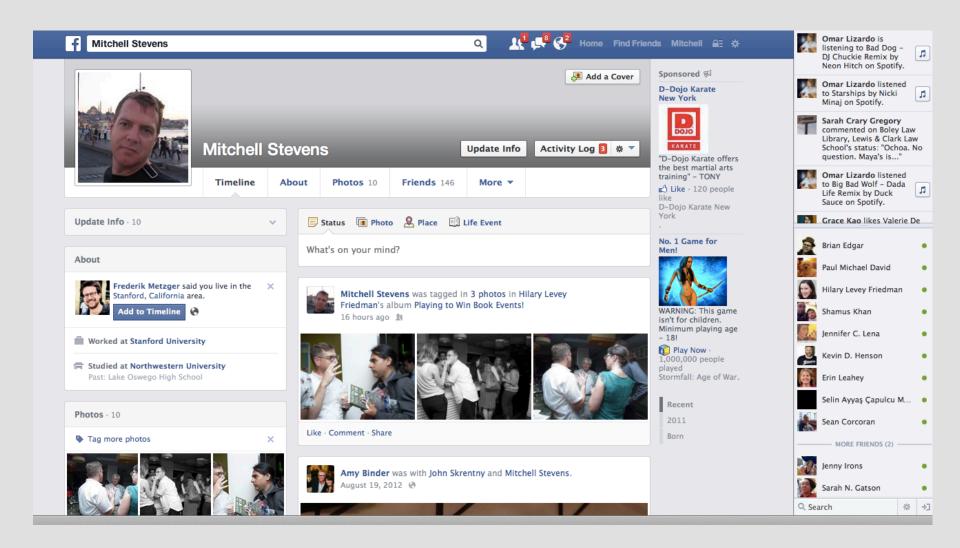
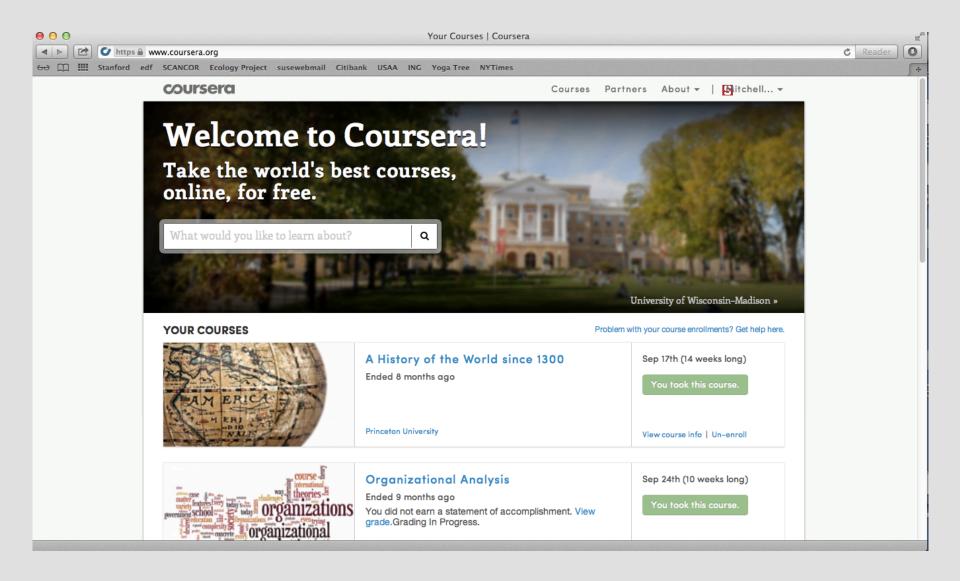
# **EDUCATION WITHOUT STATES**

Mitchell Stevens, Stanford University

@ SLAM / University of Michigan31 October 2014





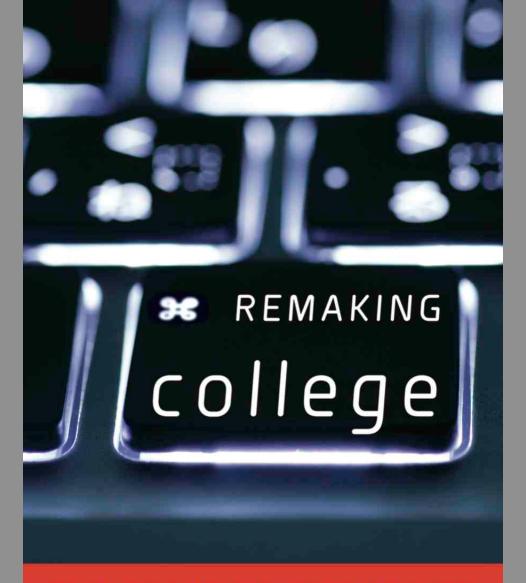
### overview

- briefest possible history of the relationships between higher education, government, markets, civil society and private life in 20<sup>th</sup>century modernity
- description of how digitally mediated instruction disrupts these relationships
- implications of this disruption for education science, business, national government, citizenship, and the self

## What is a university?

Stevens, Armstrong, and Arum, 2008. "Sieve, Incubator, Temple, Hub: Empirical and Theoretical Advances in the Sociology of Higher Education, *Annual Review of Sociology* 34:127-51.

Stevens, in progress, "Systemic Change in Higher Education," *Annual Review of Sociology* 



THE CHANGING ECOLOGY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

EDITED BY MICHAEL W. KIRST & MITCHELL L. STEVENS

### education's digital future

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#### why edf



During 2012-2014 we convened EDF as a hub for discussion of critical questions about education's digital future. A full generation has been living and learning online, yet

#### 2013 in review

Stanford's Vice
Provost for Online
Learning has
released a
comprehensive
report on campus
activities related to
online learning. The
report and a related
news story are



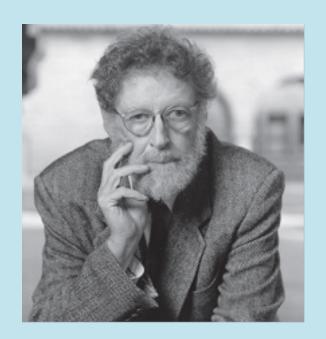
#### featured

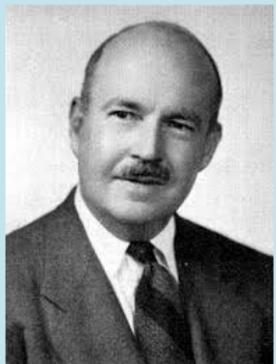
#### stanford's digital future



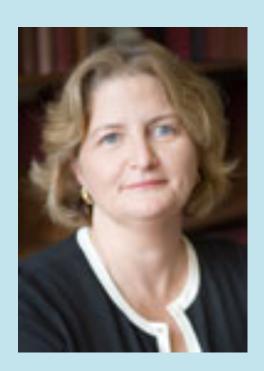
### digitally mediated instruction =

instruction conveyed and experienced *through* digital media – not just supported by it.



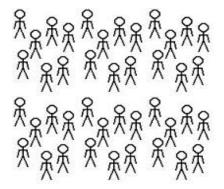








state



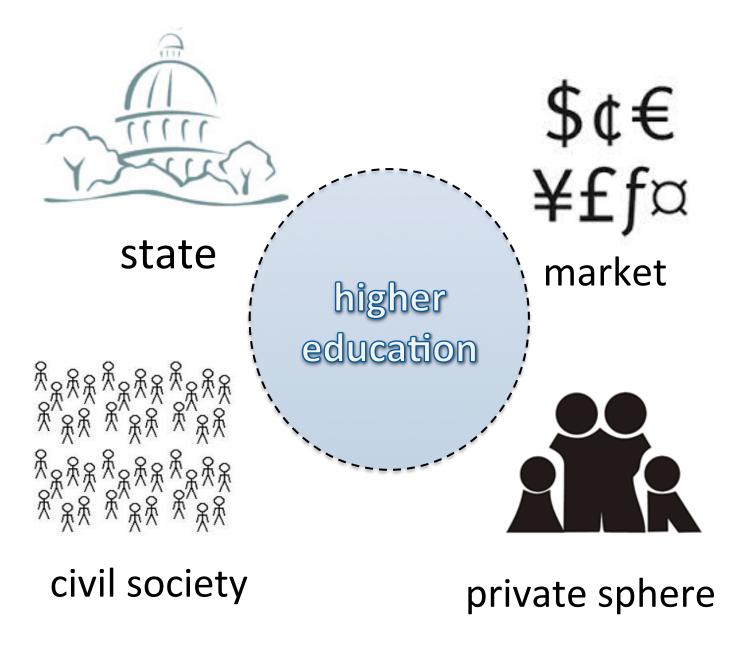
civil sphere



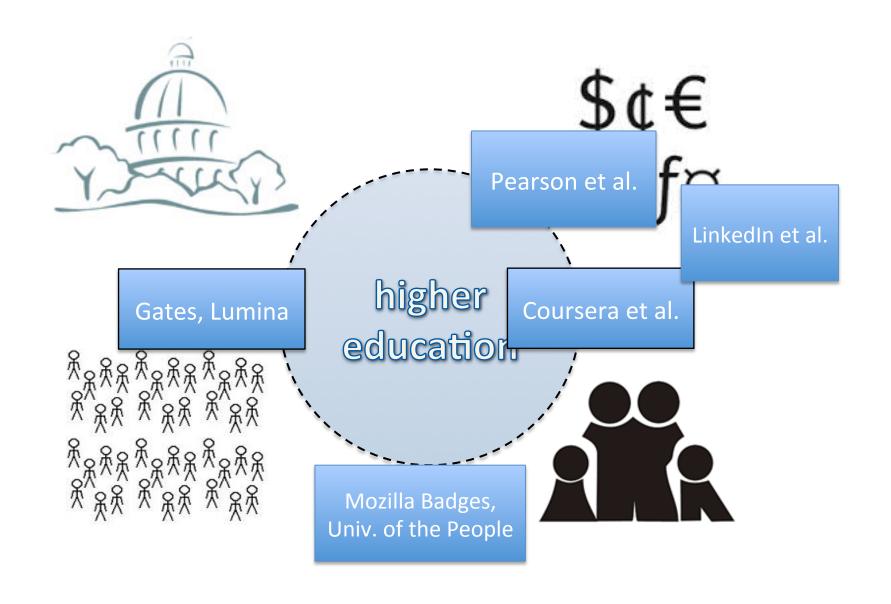
market



private sphere



nationally and historically variable; see Loss 2012 & Lowen 1997 foUS Cold War





coursera

## Implications (1)

- for science:
  - huge opportunity worldwide
  - very large questions about data standards, sharing, governance
  - we can expect a full-scale reorganization/ reconceptualization of the human sciences

# implications (2)

- for business:
  - huge opportunities worldwide
  - very large questions about regulation, consumer protection, and the rightful relation between education business and education as public good

# implications (3)

- for government:
  - rapidity of data accretion and science in private sector makes it impossible for any government to regulate/control on its own
  - digitally mediated instruction is fundamentally transnational, requiring new scientific and governance structures

## implications (4)

- for citizenship and the self:
  - the self may no longer be a national subject
  - self as portfolio of capacities, experiences, credentials
  - self as more fluid and changeable than ever before
  - may be harder to engender fealty to national & regional projects

### THANK YOU

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