



Biographies (in order of appearance)

SCHOOLS IN THE CLOUD | Learning without teachers | It couldn't happen, could it?



Bene't Steinberg is Group Director of Public Affairs at Cambridge Assessment. Bene't has been working in the education field for over fifteen years, principally dealing with the politics and perception of assessments and examinations. Reporting to the Group Chief Executive of Cambridge Assessment, Bene't has oversight of all of the organisation's education operations – the UK exam board OCR, Cambridge International Examinations and Cambridge English Language Assessment, as well as the largest research capability of its kind in the world.

The Cambridge Assessment group is the leading international assessment body which supports education reform around the globe and develops and delivers professional, rigorous and high standard assessments. Bene't sees the impact of policy on his two children.

Bene't has a BA in Politics from Lancaster University. Before coming to Cambridge, he was at top public affairs agencies delivering advice and public affairs programmes to some of Britain's major corporations.



Prof. Sugata Mitra is Professor of Educational Technology at the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University, UK.

He is the instigator of the Hole in the Wall (HIW) experiment, where in the year 1999 a computer was embedded within a wall in an Indian slum at Kalkaji, Delhi and children were allowed to freely use it. The experiment aimed at proving that kids could be taught computers very easily without any formal training. Sugata termed this as Minimally Invasive Education (MIE). The experiment has since been repeated at many places.

His interests include Children's Education, Remote Presence, Self-organising systems, Cognitive Systems, Physics and Consciousness.

The Hole in the Wall experiment has left a mark on popular culture. Indian diplomat Vikas Swarup read about Mitra's experiment and was inspired to write his debut novel that went on to become the Oscar winning movie of 2009 - Slumdog Millionaire.

He is a PHD in Physics credited with more than 25 inventions in the area of cognitive science and educational technology. He was conferred the prestigious Dewang Mehta Award for Innovation in Information Technology in the year 2005. Amongst many other awards, he was awarded the 1 million dollar TED Prize in 2013.

Starting with molecular orbital computation in the 1970s, Mitra discovered that the structure of organic molecules determine their function more than the constituent atoms. After a Ph.D. in Solid State Physics from the IIT, Delhi, he went on to research energy storage systems, first at the Centre for Energy Studies in the IIT and then at the Technische Universität, Vienna, Austria. This resulted in a new design for Zinc-Chlorine batteries.

His interests in the flow of electricity through biological systems, a consequence of his Ph.D. research on exciton dissociation in organic semiconductors, led on to a seminal speculative paper on why the human sense organs are located where they are.

His interest in computer networking led him towards the emerging systems in printing in the 1980s. He set up India's first local area network based newspaper publishing system in 1984 and went on to predict the desktop publishing industry. This in turn led to the invention of LAN based database publishing and he created the "Yellow Pages" industry in India and Bangladesh.

His interest in the human mind once again led him into the areas of learning and memory and he was amongst the first in the world to show that simulated neural networks can help decipher the mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease. He was amongst the first people in the world to invent Voluntary Perception Recording (a continuously variable voting machine) and a hyperlinked computing environment, several years ahead of the Internet.

Professor Mitra's work at NIIT created the first curricula and pedagogy for that organisation, followed by years of research

on learning styles, learning devices, several of them now patented, multimedia and new methods of learning. Culminating and, perhaps, towering over his previous work, are his “hole in the wall” experiments with children’s learning. Since 1999, he has convincingly demonstrated that groups of children, irrespective of who or where they are, can learn to use computers and the Internet on their own using public computers in open spaces such as roads and playgrounds. He brought these results to England in 2006 and invented Self Organised Learning Environments, now in use throughout the world. In 2009, he created the Granny Cloud, of teachers who interact with children over the Internet.

Since the 1970s, Professor Mitra’s publications and work has resulted in training and development of perhaps a million young Indians, amongst them some of the poorest children in the world. The resultant changes in the lives of people and the economy of the country can only be guessed at.



Lord Puttnam of Queensgate, CBE. David Puttnam is the chair of Atticus Education, an online education company based in Ireland. Atticus, through a unique arrangement with BT Ireland, delivers interactive seminars on film and a variety of other subjects to educational institutions around the world.

David spent thirty years as an independent producer of award-winning films including *The Mission*, *The Killing Fields*, *Local Hero*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Midnight Express*, *Bugsy Malone* and *Memphis Belle*. His films have won ten Oscars, 25 Baftas and the Palme D’Or at Cannes. From 1994 to 2004 he was Vice President and Chair of Trustees at the British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA) and was awarded a BAFTA Fellowship in 2006.

He retired from film production in 1998 to focus on his work in public policy as it relates to education, the environment, and the creative and communications industries. In 1998 he founded the National Teaching Awards, which he chaired until 2008, also serving as the first Chair of the General Teaching Council from 2000 to 2002. From July 2002 to July 2009 he was president of UNICEF UK, playing a key role in promoting UNICEF’s advocacy and awareness objectives.

In October 2013 David stepped down as Chancellor of the Open University a post he was appointed to in 2006, following ten years as Chancellor of The University of Sunderland. He is Digital Champion for Ireland, President of the Film Distributors’ Association, Deputy Chairman of Profero, Chairman of the TSL Advisory Board and Adjunct Professor of Film Studies and Digital Humanities at University College Cork.

He was Deputy Chairman of Channel 4 Television from 2006 until January 2012, and Chairman of North Music Trust (The Sage Gateshead) from 2007 until November 2012. He was founding Chair of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and chaired both the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television and the National Film and Television School for ten years. He has also served as a trustee of the Tate Gallery, the Science Museum and many other organisations.

In 2007 he was appointed Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Draft Climate Change Bill, having performed the same role on the 2002 Communications Bill. He has been Chairman of two Hansard Society Commission Reports on the relationship between Parliament and the Public and has served as a non-executive director on a number of public companies.

David was awarded a CBE in 1982, a knighthood in 1995 and was appointed to the House of Lords in 1997. In France he was made a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters in 1985, becoming an Officer in 1992, and a Commander in 2006. He has been the recipient of more than 40 honorary degrees from Universities in the UK and overseas. He was most recently appointed the UK Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Burma.



Dr Nick Saville is a member of the Cambridge English Senior Management Team and is responsible for directing the work of the Research and Validation Group. He holds a PhD from the University of Bedfordshire in language test impact, as well as degrees in Linguistics and in TEFL from the University of Reading. He has specialised in language assessment since 1987. Before joining Cambridge in 1989, he taught at the University of Cagliari, Italy, and managed test development projects in Tokyo.

Nick has close involvement in European initiatives, such as the Council of Europe’s Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and related ‘toolkit’, and represents Cambridge English in the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE). His current research interests include: the development of models for investigating test

impact; the implementation of quality management systems (QMS) in test development and validation; the uses of language assessment for migration and citizenship purposes; and the use of language corpora in test development and validation.

He is a member of the Cambridge team responsible for co-ordinating the English Profile Programme and in setting up the

University's Institute for Automated Language Teaching and Assessment. The latter involves the building of large learner corpora and the application of computational linguistics and machine learning in developing automated tutoring and assessment systems.

Nick presents regularly at international conferences and has published widely on issues related to language assessment. He was a founding associate editor of the journal *Language Assessment Quarterly* (2004 onwards) and is the joint editor of the *English Profile Studies* series.



Christine Swan is Director of ICT and Enterprise at The Stourport High School and Sixth Form Centre which was recently assessed as Outstanding by Ofsted for the second time. She has over twenty years teaching experience in the Secondary and FE /HE sectors.

Christine was a Senior Lecturer in Computing for ten years and ran successful programmes such as the Cisco Networking Academy, Higher National Diploma and Advanced Apprenticeship for IT Professionals before returning to school teaching. She ran an LSC funded IT Professional Cluster Group within the West Midlands area.

Always passionate about teaching Computing, Christine has been involved in the teaching of programming for most of her career. She is also actively involved in qualification and resource development, most recently the Cambridge Nationals and GCSE Computing. She currently teaches GCSE and GCE Computing and in her spare time, she enjoys making gadgets with Raspberry Pi and Arduino as well as developing fiendish programming challenges for her students.



Clive Beale is the Director of Educational Development for the Raspberry Pi Foundation. He trained as a biologist and spent several years at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew before becoming a teacher in 2003. For the next ten years he taught ICT and Computing at secondary school before joining the Raspberry Pi Foundation in February 2013.

Clive's main areas of educational interest are teaching computing in primary school and learning through practical computing. He is an avid Maker and his house is cluttered with his (mostly half-finished) projects such as power kites, telescopes and robots.



Mike Feerick, CEO, ALISON (Advanced Learning Interactive Systems Online). Mike is a US-born Irish Internet technology and social entrepreneur. He is the Founder and CEO of ALISON.com and the Founder and Chairperson of Ireland Reaching Out (Ireland XO), the National Irish Diaspora Programme.

Mike founded JFAX Ireland (sold to ESAT Telecom, 1999), YAC, a leading European unified messaging telecoms business in 1998 (sold to J2.com, 2007), Advance Learning (IT Desktop Training) and TVC Media (an e-learning contract development for Microsoft) among a number of other international Internet service businesses.

In January 2011, Mike was awarded a UNESCO Diploma prize in recognition of his services to innovation in online workplace education by the Director General of UNESCO. In 2010, he was recognized as an Ashoka Globaliser Fellow. He is also an Arthur Guinness Fund Prize winner for social entrepreneurship (2012). He is a member of the Global Irish Economic Forum, the Clinton Global Initiative, TED, and a popular guest speaker.

Mike holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.B.S. from the University of Limerick where he was Founding Chairman of the International Advisory Board of the Kemmy Business School, Ireland's largest undergraduate business program, and also a Director of the University of Limerick Foundation.



Russell Beale is Professor of Human-Computer Interaction, University of Birmingham and Director of the HCI Centre which exists to promote leading-edge research and development in theories, designs, methodologies, and systems to support people in whatever they want to achieve. The group acts as a focal point for research, development and expertise in anything that has the user at the core. This includes:

- mobile computing: laptops, handhelds, tablets, phones
- internet-based systems: e-commerce, web design, shared spaces, communities
- new media and new technologies
- ambient computing: ad-hoc interaction with the environment, other users, other systems
- intelligent agents: entities acting for or on behalf of the user

- usability and design: theories and methodologies to promote effective, usable, enjoyable systems
- visualisation, virtual and augmented realities: the representation of complex information in effective ways
- gaming, edutainment
- interaction technologies: speech, gesture, vision

Russell's interests range broadly across the border between interactive systems and society, with a particular focus on using artificial intelligence in interactive systems. They include: Theories of interaction; Usability; Mobile and pervasive computing; Intelligent agents; Genetic algorithms; Neural networks; and e-learning and HCI education.



Dr Helen Eccles is Director of Development at Cambridge International Examinations which is part of the University of Cambridge and which operates in over 160 different countries and over 60 ministries internationally.

Dr Eccles has a doctorate in Chemistry from the University of Cambridge. She entered the field of assessment following a career teaching at the UK's top sixth form college and the (now) Faculty of Education in Cambridge.

Dr Eccles' division is responsible for all new Cambridge curricula, training materials and assessments. As an expert in curriculum design and standards she has a particular interest in computer-based tests and online courses, as well as the delivery of 21st century skills in the curriculum.



Pat Glass is the Labour MP for North West Durham. Pat was elected in May 2010 having worked for 25 years in senior posts in education.

Pat is one of only five Labour MPs on the Education Select Committee and is lead opposition member. Pat is also PPS to the Shadow DEFRA Secretary, Maria Eagle MP. Pat was also PPS when Maria Eagle was Shadow Transport Secretary.



Siôn Humphreys, Policy Advisor, National Association of Headteachers (NAHT). Siôn trained as a social science and PE teacher and was a subject teacher, head of department and head of year before becoming a deputy headteacher. He spent 15 years in a range of senior leadership roles in 3 London boroughs, developed interests in CPD, pastoral management, technology in education and school improvement strategy.

An opportunity to take early retirement led to a change of direction and his current role with NAHT. Working in the policy and campaigns section, Siôn represents the Association in meetings with politicians, policy makers and other educational bodies; helps develop NAHT policy positions; works closely with National Executive members and represents NAHT in the media, both written and broadcast.

Siôn's lead responsibility is for secondary education issues but he is involved in a wide range of other areas, ranging from broader curricular matters, the impact of new technologies on schools, CPD and pastoral education.



Nick Jones, Principal, Twickenham Academy. Nick graduated with a Joint Honours Degree in Creative Design and Education from Loughborough University of Technology. He went on to study for a Certificate in Technology at Birmingham and a Masters in Education at Warwick.

In 1993 he moved to Bristol as part of the leadership team responsible for setting up a brand new school, John Cabot City Technology College. Nick was appointed as Principal at John Cabot and oversaw its conversion to academy status in September 2007.

Nick is a career teacher who has taught in a High School, a Grammar School, a split site Comprehensive school in Warwickshire and a Sixth Form College in Birmingham. In addition he was a Principal Examiner for one of the major examination boards and wrote several GCSE and A-level specifications. He is also an Honorary Visiting Fellow at the University of Bristol and a director of At-Bristol, one of the UK's leading science and discovery centres, where exploration and education go hand in hand. Nick has always enjoyed the challenge of creating successful teaching and learning experiences, and has developed a particular interest and expertise in the role of new technologies to support all aspects of learning, teaching and the management of schools. He has been invited to speak at many events in the UK and throughout Europe. External work has also included consultancy for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and a number of Academies and Local Authority schools.

When not in his own school, Nick is a governor at a Special School and has been active in a number of Autism charities. He is a 'hands-on' craftsman and engineer who enjoys making 'one-off' pieces of furniture. Nick is married with three sons aged 17, 20 and 23.