

Foreword

The recursive nature of Inquiry as a process of turning back on itself can be transformative by the tension it generates between describing the process and exemplifying it. One might wonder what role each one of us plays when ‘opportunities’ present themselves as possibilities that eventually become realities. Although much confusion has been generated in sorting out what is science from what is technology, conceiving science as applied technology and technology as applied science has only muddled matters more. On the other hand, a useful distinctionⁱ has been offered that defines Science as being “concerned with processes that seek out the meaning of the natural world by ‘inquiry’, ‘discovering what is’, ‘exploring’, and using ‘the scientific method’; and technology as being concerned with such processes that we use to alter/change the natural world such as ‘invention’, ‘innovation’, practical problem solving, and design.” I highlighted another useful distinctionⁱⁱ elsewhere between “creativity” as the generation of new ideas, and “innovation” as the successful exploitation of new ideas, and that the most fundamental technologies available for inquiry are creativity and innovation.

As editor of *Technology for Creativity and Innovation: Tools, Techniques and Applications*, Anabela Mesquita has demonstrated her creative and innovative intentions in this book as a form of communities of practice. Dr. Mesquita is a professor of the School of Accounting and Administration of the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (ISCAP), one of Portugal's largest and most prestigious public Polytechnic Institutes (IPP). She is also the Principal Editor of the *International Journal of Technology and Human Interaction*, an interdisciplinary platform for leading research that addresses issues of human and technology interaction. She has transformed these opportunities and conveyed a challenge that has pulled together contributors from different fields to demonstrate their conception of what it means to relate to technology. Through their differences, she created a community of individuals willing to share their creativity and innovation through their relationship to and with technology.

Focusing on the relevancy of the demand for academic work, empirical research and best practices found in business areas of technologies, Dr. Mesquita's book, *Technology for Creativity and Innovation: Tools, Techniques and Application*, is a definite asset to anyone interested in creativity, innovation and technology, particularly educators, professionals and researchers working in these fields.

With the range of knowledge, experience, creativity and innovation presented here, readers will find their way toward greater confidence and competence relating to technology in their own creative and innovative ways.

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ENDNOTES

- i William E. Dugger, Jr., Senior Fellow International Technology Education Association (ITEA) & Emeritus Professor, Virginia Tech, USA. “The Perspective of Technology Education”, the Second International Symposium on Educational Cooperation for Industrial Technology Education, Kariya City, Japan, 2000.
- ii Mario Spiler, “Creative inquiry and the discourse of creativity”, unpublished manuscript, 2009; and Mario Spiler, “The Epistemology of Creative Inquiry”, unpublished chapter, 2010.

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