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English for an Era of instability:

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Aesthetics, ethics, creativity and 'design'

English in Australia
Issue 134 (Jul 2002)

Kress, Gunther

Abstract: To say that we live in changing times will not cause much surprise. The causes have a name that has long since slipped into cliché: globalisation. Economic changes figure most prominently, though the globalisation of culture is not far behind.

Education, which once underpinned if not produced the bounties of the Western economies, is no longer 'delivering'. Once the guarantor of economic well-being as much as of cultural stability, 'Education' has failed. There is a depressing familiarity about educational debates across the Anglophone world. Vast economic and social problems are sheeted home to 'failures' in educational systems; at the same time, revised and revived, education might once again prove to be the cure for the self-same difficulties. 'Solutions' developed in Anglophone countries are now taken up with an enthusiasm bordering on fervour in non- English speaking societies.



FULL TEXT PDF (991KB)

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