Varieties of Intelligence in Higher Education in Kenya
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ABSTRACT

Purpose Design: To debunk the myth that informs the ranking of intellectual disciplines and/or exclusion of nonverbal, non-computational intelligences from higher education systems. The authors introduce a set of papers that explore kinds of intelligence that, for historical and other reasons are de-emphasized or ignored in higher education. Papers question scientific hegemony and challenge the notion that logical thinking and artistic creativity are mutually exclusive.

Methodology /Approach: Design Methodology. Over 130 years (total) of participant observation in design education and professional practice have informed the 3 authors’ stand on the issues of scientific hegemony and unspoken ranking of academic disciplines. Our exploratory approach is informed by the vast body of literature and many theoretical perspectives on the rationales that inform artistic and scientific thinking.

Practical Implication: There is an urgent need to enable policy makers and educationists at all levels to identify, consider and take into account the many kinds of intelligence that come into play as our population and our world expand exponentially.

Originality /value: Exclusion of valuable human resources on the basis of narrowly defined criteria can interfere with development efforts especially vision 2030. Over reliance on quantification and scientific method are responsible for the loss or underdevelopment of the creative sectors in national and global economies. This paper introduces a set of papers that should contribute to the larger discussion exploring several kinds of intelligence and intellectual discipline that are under-recognized in higher education. Factors that have contributed to the perceived divide between the Sciences and Arts plus the devaluation of manual, visual, and other sense-based disciplines are considered. These considerations help provide insights in both academic spaces and the ‘workplace.’

Keywords: Sciences, Arts, scientific knowledge, artistic knowledge, intelligence