



Panel Debates: Rationale

Chronis Kynigos, *kynigos@ppp.uoa.gr*

Educational Technology Lab, School of Philosophy, University of Athens

James Clayson *james@clayson.org*

Professor Emeritus, The American University of Paris

In the first Constructionism conference in Paris we found the climate to be relatively reflective and introvert. In this conference Wally Feurzeig, Richard Noss, Jim Clayson, Ivan Kalas and I felt that it would be important to discuss ways in which Constructionism can avoid becoming a victim of fragmentation, self-referencing and loss of relevance to what's going on in research and education worldwide. We would therefore like to give a push to re-addressing Constructionism in a pluralistic world, to go beyond its reference to mathematics and computer science education, to make identifications, ask questions and forge connections with trends, theories, technologies and mindsets in society and educational systems. We feel strongly that constructionist epistemology and associated technologies and learning and design theories have a lot to give yet and need a lot more work on how they can be reified into practices. The 2012 Conference included the following four panel debates, each with a 'burning theme' for the Constructionist community.

- **Panel Debate 1:** Changing the subject
- **Panel Debate 2:** Segregation forever?
- **Panel Debate 3:** How do we know it when we see it?
- **Panel Debate 4:** Constructionism and Policy