

Dream On

**Building a Knowledge-Base
for Social Work Practice in the
Global Context**

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My first lecture as an undergraduate

- October 1973
- #726 Knowles Building, University of Hong Kong
 - Introduction to Psychology
 - Lecturer: The late Dr. Erik Kvan

Opening Question

**Do you believe that the sun will rise
in the East tomorrow morning?**

What a leading physicist says

“For example, we might notice that the sun has risen in the east every morning of our lives, and postulate the law “The sun always rises in the east.” This is a generalization that goes beyond our limited observations of the rising sun and makes testable predictions about the future.”

Stephen Hawking and Leonard Mlodinow (2012)

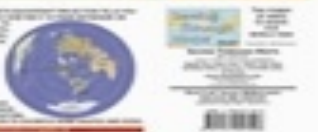
The grand design.

New York: Bantam Books

(pp. 27-28)

Do you believe that the sun will rise in the East tomorrow morning?

- Limited observation 365X24+6 / 4.55 billion years
- Confirmation and refutation, the assumption of order/lawfulness (Karl Popper),
- All observed As are B, does not imply that the next A will be B (Hume)
- Geocentric (earth-centered) language to describe heliocentric (sun-centered) reality
- Movement as relative
- “East” as socially constructed



Waking Up to the Real World

A Few Ideas to Share

- Outline of social work knowledge base
- Global context re-imagined
- Rhetoric and practice in the global context
- Post-professionalism
- Commercial Break: The SSLD Model

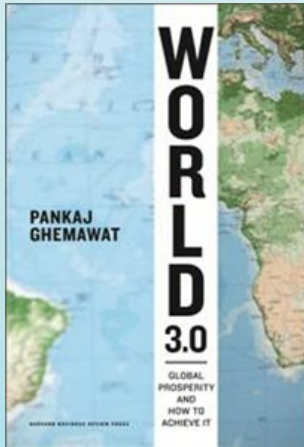
Social Work Knowledge Base

- Making sense of human realities
 - Social science, humanities, bio-medical disciplines, etc. (e.g., mathematics, statistics, information technology)
 - Research on human realities encountered by social workers
- Professional knowledge: e.g., service systems, practice conventions, relevant legislations policies, etc.
- Practice knowledge and skills
- Professional and personal experience of the worker (including what we have learned from our clients)
- Non-professional knowledge about the world
 - Dominant discourses, dominant critiques in Anglo-American social work, the cult of political correctness
 - Life-scripts

Global Context Re-imagined

- Shifts in global political economy of knowledge production
- Knowledge management: Knowledge as commodity (supported by the research university model)
- Type I to Type II knowledge

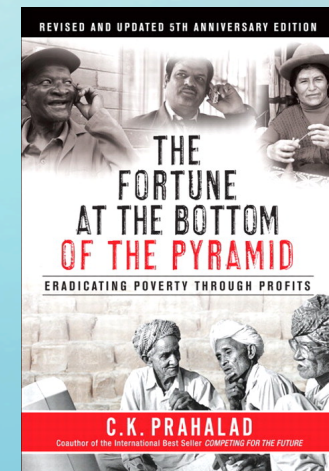
Type I	Type II
Pure, basic research	Applied research (impure?)
Researcher driven	Market/demand Driven
Single discipline	Multi-disciplinary



If you have time, read

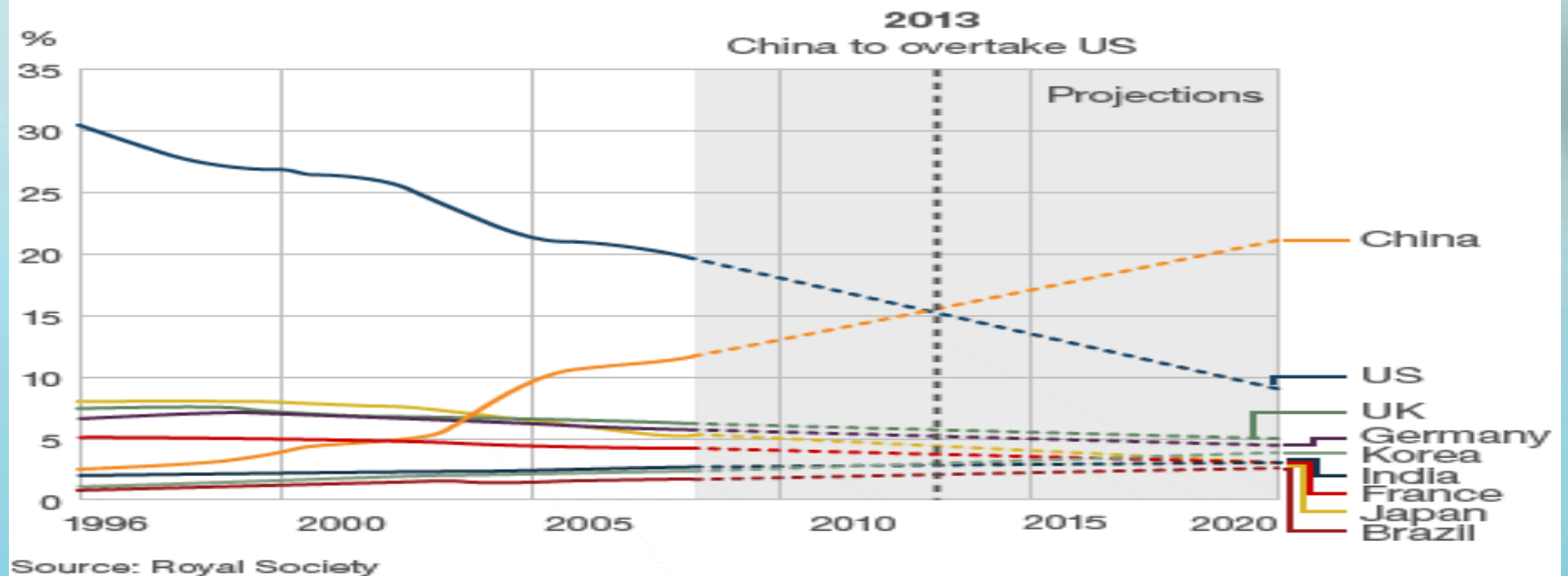
Ghemawat, P. (2011). World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve it.

C. K. Prahalad (2004). The fortune at the bottom of the pyramid: Eradicating poverty through profits.



Global Political Economy of Knowledge

Projected growth in citations in scientific literature



Royal Society (2011). Knowledge, networks and nations Global scientific collaboration in the 21st century.

Rank Country Expenditures on R&D

	(billions US\$, PPP)	% of GDP PPP	Year
• 1 United States	405.3	2.7%	2011
• 2 China	153.7	1.4%	2011
• 3 Japan	144.1	3.3%	2011
• 4 Germany	69.5	2.3%	2011
• 5 South Korea	44.8	3.0%	2011
• 6 France	42.2	1.9%	2011
• 7 United Kingdom	38.4	1.7%	2011
• 8 India	36.1	0.9%	2011
• 9 Canada	24.3	1.8%	2011
• 10 Russia	23.1	1.0%	2011

Rhetoric And Practice In The Global Context

- “Leading” schools of social work have adopted the research university model
- Is the research university model good for social work?
- We value research (presumed knowledge production) and publication (presumed knowledge dissemination) over teaching and practice
 - you can become a social work faculty without any practice competence, but you need to be a good researcher
 - If you do research well (meaning bringing in \$\$\$), you will be rewarded by a reduction in your teaching
- Social Work in China and Tanzania: Do you care?

The Post-Professional Era

- Not who or what you are, but what you can do
- Over-supply of MSWs (same as MBAs) – Settlement workers, PSWs, cashier at Canadian Tire?
- Growing youth unemployment (almost worldwide)
- Shrinking government resources: New ways of service delivery

- We have a lot to offer!

Commercial Break

SSLD Strategies and Skills Learning and Development

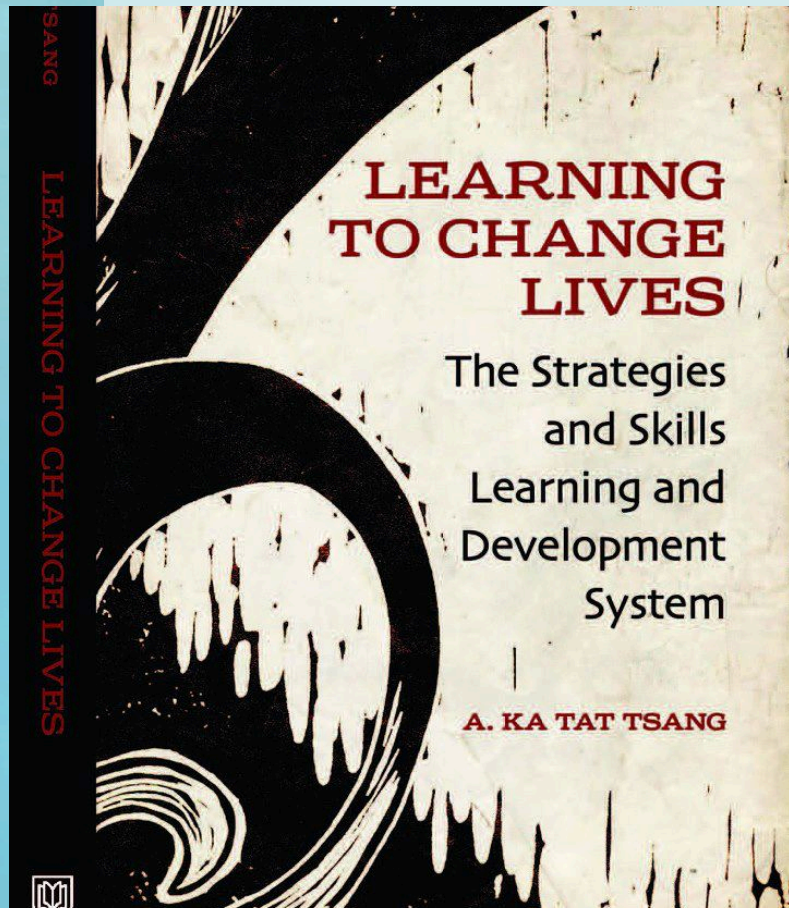
Website: <http://ssld.kttsang.com/>

or simple google SSLD, we should be the first link to pop up

- Applied to individuals, couples, families, groups, communities, organizations; now exploring policy applications
- MCM: Multiple contingencies thinking/modeling
- Global perspective, diversity-positive
- Post-Professional, beyond social work

Examples of SSLD Applications

schizophrenic disorder autism and autistic spectrum disorder
insomnia weight management dating **palliative care** community
development **corporate training** **internet addiction** front-desk
reception **customer service** substance abuse **organizational**
development parenting group **investment and personal finance**
couple counseling community organizing and activism **team**
building **volunteer training and development** overspending
Alzheimer's disease **pain management** cross-cultural
psychotherapy and counseling **sexuality and intimacy**
women groups **settlement service** elder abuse **yoga and**
body work caregiver support **proactive health strategies**



You can pre-order the book at:
University of Toronto Press

<http://www.utppublishing.com/home.php>

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