

**Designs on eLearning conference, New York.**

**21 - 22 September 2016**

**The New School**

**Mark Ingham**

**“Mark, How did you know anything before the Internet existed?”**

**Workshop/Debate**



**“Mark, How did you know anything before the Internet existed?”**

In a landmark article, Andy Clark (2013) describes the fundamental function of the brain as predictive machine; one that uses past experiences and current sensory input to generate expectations for future sensory inputs, and then evaluates the error, or discrepancy between these expectations and the inputs eventually observed. Learning, in this perspective, is the minimisation of the error between expectations and observations.

“The sociology of culture, as it entered the second half of the twentieth century, was broadly compounded of work done from these two positions, much of it of great local value. Each position [Idealistic or Materialistic] represented a form of that convergence of interests which the term 'culture' itself, with its persistent range of relational emphases, notably exemplifies. But in contemporary work, while each of the earlier positions is still held and practised, a new kind of convergence is becoming evident. (Culture by Raymond Williams)

# The Debate.