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Concluding Thoughts

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We started this book by discussing the future context for learning: The environment, influenced by political, economic, social, environmental and technological change, in which learning will take place. We then moved on to future learning, presenting emerging tools, techniques and approaches to learning which we anticipate will grow and become established, or perhaps be eclipsed by newer variants. In the final section of the book we introduced the future learner and discussed the capabilities and characteristics she or he will need to thrive.

All three sections of the book are oriented to the domain of executive education, where the audience comprises managers and leaders who themselves will need to grapple with what the future holds for their respective industries and professions. With this in mind, perhaps there are two areas with which the executive education business should concern itself above all else. First, developing individuals' capacity to learn and respond to unpredictable circumstances and, second, raising managers' awareness of their personal agency – their role and influence on the world around them. These themes are reflected in many of the chapters in this book. If the executive education industry is to play a leading role in shaping the future, and not merely hang on to the coat tails of change, then we believe it is through developing the innate capabilities of those who will be leading us into the new world.

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