Résumé of ILAN CHABAY

Dr. Ilan Chabay was selected to be the first Erna & Victor Hasselblad Professor of Public Learning and Understanding of Science (PLUS). He holds this newly endowed Chair jointly at Chalmers University of Technology and Göteborg University in Göteborg, Sweden for a three-year renewable term. He began his Professorship on March 8, 2006 and moved to Göteborg in June, 2006.

He is conducting research on how the public's ideas about science and technology are learned, processed, used, and changed. The major themes of his research are 1) the use of models and metaphors for understanding science, 2) verbal and non-verbal measures of public engagement with science, 3) use of new types of role-playing computer games to study how adolescents - especially girls - engage in science, and 4) how science communication between policy makers, scientists, and citizens affects governance.

He is also Director of the new Göteborg Center for PLUS (GC+) established jointly at Chalmers University of Technology and Göteborg University. The mission of GC+ is to become a coordinating center for expanding insights and knowledge of public learning and understanding of science and technology and for improving its practice through research, dialogue, collaboration, and communication between researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and the public.

The two strands of Dr. Chabay's prior work have been 1) the implementation of new strategies to engage children and adults from diverse communities in the social issues, as well as the ideas and fun of science, and 2) the creation of innovative science learning experiences, including exhibitions, games, and toys. He has taught science in pre-college classrooms and worked with elementary, middle, and high school teachers and administrators and parents in several countries on inquiry-based, child-centered approaches to learning science.

Dr. Ilan Chabay has been an advisor and consultant worldwide to corporations, museums, media companies, design firms, schools, and government agencies. He has been a keynote speaker at conferences and presented invited talks at scores of corporations, universities, schools, and museums worldwide. Dr. Chabay served on the Leadership and Planning Group for the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Office of Space Science and directed a team that designed an innovative web-based Science Education Framework for NASA.

As the first recipient of the Alan B. Leviton Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Science Education of Children and Youth presented in 1999 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Dr. Chabay was recognized for the creativity, playfulness, artistry, and scientific integrity of his work and his long-standing commitment to science education.

The New Curiosity Shop® (NCS), which Dr. Chabay founded and directed, was a workshop (not a store!) and consultancy from 1983 to 2001. The workshop was closed in 2001 in order to allow Dr. Chabay to focus on consulting and educational development.

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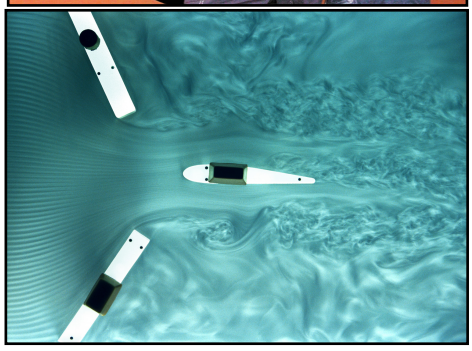

Prior to 2001, in their 1000 square meter facility, Dr. Chabay and his staff designed, developed, and produced, innovative hands-on science exhibits for over 230 institutions in 16 countries. Dr. Chabay planned museums and exhibitions in collaboration with architects and designers. He developed an innovative rural science outreach center and its educational programs. He is responsible for three patents issued on games and toys based on natural phenomena. The New Curiosity Shop's popular and successful hands-on exhibits use real phenomena, physical models, and electronic simulations. They include Ribosome Restaurant™, Magnetic PolePatterns™, Flow Tunnel™, Ping Pong Pinball™, and Giant Magnetic Disk Drive™. Dr. Chabay's work has contributed to improving the quality of science learning experiences available to millions of children and adults worldwide.

In 1996 Dr. Chabay initiated what he calls "Guerilla Science," which uses existing commercial infrastructure and marketing budgets of businesses to provide new opportunities for children to engage in science learning activities within their own neighborhoods. Hands-on science exhibits packaged as game-like products to entertain customers were sold to businesses, including grocery stores, fast food restaurant chains, medical clinics, and a cruise ship.

Dr. Chabay has a B.A. degree from Clark University in Worcester, MA, where he completed a major in chemistry with additional focus on intellectual history. He earned his Ph.D. in chemical physics from the University of Chicago.

He received a National Institutes of Health postdoctoral fellowship in biophysical chemistry at the University of Illinois. Subsequently, he became senior research scientist and project leader developing laser spectroscopy and analytical methods at the National Institutes for Standards and Technology (NIST). He is the author of 30 research papers in major scientific journals.

He left NIST in 1982 to serve as the Associate Director of the Exploratorium in San Francisco at the request of Dr. Frank Oppenheimer, its founder and director. After leaving the Exploratorium and founding The New Curiosity Shop in 1983, he became Consulting Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University from 1983 through 1988. In 2005, Dr. Chabay was Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Applied Sciences at the University of the West of England in Bristol, UK, where he taught portions of a Master's degree course in science communication. Dr. Chabay has also been Distinguished Visiting Professor at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont, CA (1989), Universidad Nacional in Bogotá, Colombia (1985), and the Institutes for Molecular Science in Okazaki, Japan (1981).