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Images in Conservative Education

The planned paper will first recall, and briefly argue for, some basic tenets of the conservative view of education, “conservative” here intended in the usual, old-fashioned sense of the term. It will then introduce a new, albeit related, notion of conservatism, *postmodern* conservatism, attempting to sketch the educational implications this notion leads to. Among the implications is the need for a special stress on the visual, as contrasted with the verbal. Images document and conserve, as well as enhance our sense of reality, keeping in check our flights from reason; and especially the *moving image* is a unique instrument for simulating an unknown future, for which to prepare the next generation is the main responsibility of postmodern conservative education. The paper will build on the classics of conservative theory from Burke to F. A. von Hayek, taking full note, too, of the (admittedly meager) recent literature on conservatism, with emphasis on the book by Kieran O’Hara – pointing, in particular, to the significance of practical (thus also of pictorial), local, decentralized knowledge.

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