Thinking about the Future of “U” Universities (part I and II)

Special sessions I and II, 11 September 2017 @ International Transdisciplinarity Conference 2017
Transdisciplinary Research and Education, 11-15 September, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

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with Marta Varanda and Andy Inch

Science policy & funding of research

Inter (& Trans) disciplinarity
(re)Thinking the “Future of U”
INTREPID London workshop and report

• Sustainable Development / (ID & TD)
• Wisdom / Ways of Knowing / Other traditions of knowledge
• Relevance of the affective domain
• The role of academics (and TD)
• The Ethical Dimension
• Responsible Science
• Denouncing Neoliberal Model / Marketization of HE
• Alternative Institutions / Whole-system approach / Systems-thinking
• Futures Scenarios / technology

EF Schumacher: On learning how to think

• 'our crisis... did not come to pass because of a failure of doctors, of engineers or lawyers ... They did not fail as experts but as people. Man does not wander alone through the world but with others, so one can say that our task is a double one:
  • to fully develop oneself
  • to form one’s relationship to other people - family, groups, one’s countrymen, mankind, - sensibly, ethically, or expressed quite simply, with joy. I do not need to emphasize particularly that this division is artificial. One without the other is impossible.'
• (March 1948, In a lecture, Wood 1984: 213)
questioning the systemic aspirations of economic development and efficiency: a system that desires machines with human intelligence and humans that can perform like machines'

(Whose Utopia, Cao Fei, 2006)
Five basic questions arising from our London Workshop/Report:

- What purposes and goals will define Universities in the future? What future for the UN agenda on Education for Sustainable Development?
- What will be the driving ethos of the future university: the character and values of its educational project?
- What are the most likely drivers of change and related uncertainties? How will inter and transdisciplinarity shape universities?
- How will Universities relate to, and engage with, the world around them (locally, regionally and globally)?
- What obstacles and challenges are to be expected?

Our invited speakers:

- Heather CAMPBELL (University of Sheffield)
- Igor CAMPILLO (Euskampus en Universidad del País Vasco)
- Garry JACOBS (World Academy of Art & Science)
- Roberto POLI (University of Trento)
- Petra SCHWEIZER-RIES (University of Bochum)
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