

**Rethinking the university after Bologna:  
New concepts and practices beyond tradition and the market**

UCSIA conference

December 12th – 13th 2008  
University Antwerp

**INTRODUCTION:**

The European space for Higher Education and Research that results from both the Bologna process (education) and the Lisbon strategy (research) repositions universities. In this new European area, and combined with procedures of (consumer or market) accountability, performance management, output funding and excellence rhetoric, universities and their staff are asked (and strongly 'advised') to become entrepreneurial. Now that the Bologna process and Lisbon strategy are almost completed (2010), and because of the growing unease at universities due to the pressure to become entrepreneurial, it is time to take a closer look at these developments and especially on their implications for the public meaning of university education and university research.

Yet, instead of mourning once more about the so-called disappearance of the modern or traditional university and merely cultivating discontent, the aim of the conference is to look at new practices and reflections beyond entrepreneurial values and attitudes. The point of departure of this conference is that there are alternatives for the entrepreneurial university in education, research, organization, and service and that these alternatives bring into play in one way or another the public role of universities. For sure, these practices of re-thinking and re-practicing the university are often rather local and still waiting for a language and opportunity to manifest themselves.

**AIM:**

The conference will address several issues. First it wants to examine why we should look for alternatives at all. To do that, it identifies problems not only just in the entrepreneurial model, but also in the 'old' or traditional model it replaces. Second it then wants to look for new ways of organizing, practicing and conceptualizing university life. It will look for alternatives in different directions: new practices inside the university as well as practices outside the institution and practices at the borders, which may inspire university institutions.

The programme will be clustered around four themes: the social and public purpose of the university, alternatives and changes in academic education, recent developments in and organization of academic research and finally academic knowledge production and dissemination in the information age.

In view of this, the aim of the conference is to invite papers that discuss or demonstrate enduring practices and ideas in times of entrepreneurship and excellence. Such a conference may open up a new horizon for academics, students and policy makers to think about the university within the European

space for higher education and research. Relevant questions to be addressed by the conference are:

- What are the possible dysfunctions of both the traditional models and the entrepreneurial alternative of universities?
- Why should we look for alternative models of higher education and research?
- What are the side effects of the entrepreneurial university?
- What are the consequences of commercialising higher education?
- Are there trade offs between accountability and academic freedom?
- What are the alternatives for non-institutionalised universities?
- What is the future for new open source movements, open access systems and open educational resources?
- How promising are new organisational alternatives for higher education and academic research?

**ORGANIZING/ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

- Luc Braeckmans, academische onderdirecteur UCSIA
- Sara Mels, projectmedewerker UCSIA, [sara.mels@ua.ac.be](mailto:sara.mels@ua.ac.be)
- Jan Masschelein, departement pedagogische wetenschappen, KULeuven
- Walter Nonneman, afgevaardigd bestuurder UCSIA
- Maarten Simons, departement pedagogische wetenschappen, KULeuven
- Nicolas Standaert, departement sinologie, faculteit letteren, KULeuven
- Chris Timmerman, academisch directeur UCSIA
- Wim Weymans, departement pedagogische wetenschappen, KULeuven
- Frank Willaert, departement letterkunde, faculteit L&W, UA

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME SCHEDULE:**

	<b>Thursday Dec. 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Friday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Saturday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>09:00</b>		<b>Registration</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:30</b>		Introduction	Topic 3 "Academic research"
<b>10:00</b>		Topic 1 "Academic knowledge production and dissemination in the information age" + questions	+ questions
<b>11:00</b>		<b>Coffee Break</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:30</b>		1 <sup>st</sup> session of workshops	3 <sup>rd</sup> session of workshops
<b>13:00</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00</b>		Topic 2 "The social and public purpose of the university" + questions	Topic 4 "Academic education" + questions
<b>15:30</b>		<b>Coffee Break</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:00</b>		2 <sup>nd</sup> session of workshops	4 <sup>th</sup> session of workshops
<b>17:30</b>		Workshop reports day 1	Workshop reports day 2
<b>18:00</b>		<b>End day 1</b>	<b>End of the conference</b>
<b>19:00</b>	Public Panel debate	Conference dinner	/
<b>21:00</b>	Reception	/	/

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

1. The social and public purpose of the university

JAN MASSCHELEIN is Professor for Philosophy of Education at the Catholic University of Leuven. His primary areas of scholarship are educational theory, political philosophy, critical theory, studies of governmentality and social philosophy. Currently his research concentrates on the 'public' character of education in the age of networks and on the way in which changes in experiences of time and space are related to different ways of organising and of structuring education and research. He is more particularly interested in the way in which the European spaces (of research and education) can be considered to be public spaces and in the kind of inhabitants that these spaces seem to require (and to 'produce'). In addition to this work he is strongly engaged with architects/artists in the development of experimental educational practices and research practices. He is the author of many articles, special journal issues and books in these fields. On the implications of the newly constructed European Space of Higher Education for the public meaning of education he published with Maarten Simons: *Globale Immunität. Eine kleine Kartographie des Europäischen Bildungsraums* (Diaphanes, 2004).

2. Academic knowledge production and dissemination in the information age

FRIEDRICH KITTLER (TBC) is a media theorist and is a seminal figure in the development of media theory. He is a Chair of Aesthetics and Media History at the Humboldt University in Berlin and teaches at University of California, Berkeley, the University of California, Santa Barbara and Stanford University, Yale University, and Columbia University as a visiting professor. His publication

includes "Discourse Networks 1800 / 1900", "Gramophone Film Typewriter", and "Literature, Media, Information Systems".

### 3. Recent developments in and organization of academic research

Professor RONALD BARNETT is Professor of Higher Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, where he is also Pro-Director for Longer Term Strategy (in which role he has been developing a new Corporate Strategy for the Institute). Before joining the Institute (as a lecturer) in 1990, he had a career in academic administration.

In his research, he has been trying to see whether it is possible to construct an educational idea of the university in the contemporary age and to identify conceptual and practical resources to that end. His books include *The Idea of Higher Education*, *Improving Higher Education: Total Quality Care*, *The Limits of Competence*, *Higher Education: A Critical Business*, *Realizing the University in an Age of Supercomplexity* and *Beyond All Reason: Living with Ideology in the University*. In press (Open University Press), is *A Will to Learn: Being a Student in an Age of Uncertainty*. The University of London has conferred on him a higher doctorate, several of his books have been prizewinners, the Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE) has made him a Fellow and, in 2005, he was the first recipient of the 'Distinguished Researcher' prize awarded by the European Association for Institutional Research. He has been a keynote speaker in around 30 countries.

### 4. Alternatives and changes in academic education

SUSAN ROBERTSON is a Professor of Sociology of Education in the Graduate School of Education, University of Bristol. Susan's academic career has spanned four countries - Australia, Canada, New Zealand and England. In 1999 she took up a post at the University of Bristol where she has worked to create the first centre of its kind in the UK - the Centre for Globalisation, Education and Societies (GES). Along with her colleague Roger Dale, she also is founding editor for the journal *Globalisation, Societies and Education* published by Carfax. There is now a core and critical mass of scholars working with her in the GES.

Her current work is engaged with globalisation and regionalisation as it works on and through both education systems and new sites of knowledge production. Recent work includes analyses of the various global (WTO) and regional (EU; ASEM, NAFTA) agreements and their implications for education; the creation of the European Education Space as part of the EU's competitive knowledge economy strategy; new educational spaces that are being generated as part of state's knowledge economy strategies; new patterns of education aid in the global economy; rescaling and citizenship regimes.