

## **ERUA WP 2**

### **Research Group Workshop:**

# The History and Legacy of Reform: Changing Promises and Realities of Higher Education

University of Konstanz

**May 5th-7th, 2022**

Organisation/Coordination: WP 2 UKon  
(Anne Kwaschik)



## The History and Legacy of Reform: Changing Promises and Realities of Higher Education

This is the second instalment of a workshop series, organized by the ERUA WP 2 research group designed to explore both the existing and the plausible future alternatives to Higher Education. Over the next two years, we will be discussing the questions of how and why reform universities emerged, what it meant to be an alternative in the past and what it would mean to be an alternative today in the modern landscape of Higher Education. Changes took place as the result of historic processes characterized by the rise of vocational universities and the contestation they had to face by alternative forms of learning and researching. From their origins, reform universities had embodied the expectation to convey a project of empowerment and social emancipation from the domination of societal strongholds such as church and state. Therefore, we approach reform as a promise of departure that is bound to shape new modes of interaction and knowledge production. To understand the current reality of reform universities, we rely on the idea that the past lives into the present as handed down order. This enables us to ask what it is that we want to hand down to future generations. Within this framework, our workshop investigates the relationship between major socio-political transformations and reform initiatives. In the duality of promises and realities, the workshop will investigate two major problem fields concerning: 1. The scope and impact of Higher Education and 2. The transformation of Higher Education by new forms of funding, evaluation, and organization.

### Scope and Impact of Higher Education: Past and Present

In the twentieth century, a vast majority of the new institutions of Higher Education were founded as alternatives or correctives to the model of the vocational university of the late nineteenth century. The latter was characterized by disciplinary specialization, standardized education, and an ideology of detachment. Within an educational landscape dominated by the vocational university, reform initiatives created and continue to create space for interdisciplinarity, student-centred education, and societal engagement (Pellew and Taylor 2021; Eskildsen 2022, forthcoming).

However, to maintain an alternative educational model in the twenty-first century remains a challenging task. Indeed, delivering messages of hope, freedom, and educational services to the public while carrying on inclusiveness and problem awareness (environment, gender, etc.) can often lead to tensions and paradoxes. For example, isomorphic behaviours to manage operational realities might inflict gender identity deconstruction processes with generic administrative forms. Therefore, the question arises: beyond a legacy for human emancipation, what can reform universities now bring to the table of our contemporaneity?

Based on selected case studies, the workshop will examine these developments and focus on the introduction of new educational practices such as the beginnings of new forms of general or civic education in different periods and contexts: Interwar North America and post-communist Bulgaria. It will also discuss the ambivalent legacy of these practices and specify the trajectory of the relationship between civic activity and the role of teaching and



researching in Higher Education. Finally, it will discuss these questions in the broader context of the creation of a European political community and see how institutional and education reforms may help to create cultural, legal, and political cohesion on a European level.

## Transformation of Higher Education by New Forms of Funding, Evaluation, and Organisation

Since the 1960s, the vocational university has altered so fundamentally due to changed funding regimes, that a new name was given to it: “the multiversity”. Clark Kerr coined this term to point to the contemporary university as a “paramount institution in a post-industrial age”, housing “faculty entrepreneurs” competing over project funds (Kerr 1963/1982; Shapin 2008). These changing institutional *realities* have also promoted reform of Higher Education, often motivated not by educational ideals but by mere necessity. The impact of project funding (and funding schemes in general) on educational and research practices will be assessed from a historic and comparative perspective.

In doing so, we intend to examine how the measurement of knowledge production altered academic departments; the interest of scholars; the organisation of disciplines and the value of teaching. Papers presented at the workshop will examine the dialectic of patronage and autonomy since the 1960s by analysing the cases of the universities of Paris 8 and Guadalajara (Western Mexico) as well as US-American universities, including the history of administrative personnel. It will discuss how the effects of the extensive introduction of project management have been addressed by scholars and administrators in the 1960s and 1970s. Based on recent research, historical insights and case studies are seen as material to imagine “new forms of vocational solidarity” (Pardo-Guerra 2022, forthcoming). Finally, the workshop will address the Europeanisation of research (social science) by funding through EU FPs, national incentives for transnational collaboration and mobility as well as the emergence of European associations of social sciences.

The workshop includes a presentation on the topic of digitalization by Kristian Bankov (New Bulgarian University) and commentaries provided by Asher Boersma (University of Konstanz): It differs from the other research paper presentations as its aim is to prepare the ground for the next workshop due to take place in fall 2022 dealing with the impact of digitalisation on Higher Education. The Q&A section will serve to determine the scope of this next workshop with different approaches towards the digital future of Higher Education.

## Literature

Citton, Yves, 2010, *Économies de la Connaissance ou Cultures de l'interprétation*, La Découverte.

Eskildsen, Kasper Risbjerg. *The Humanities in the Vocational University: On the Unity of Teaching and Research*. In: *Writing the History of the Humanities: Questions, Themes and Approaches*, ed. Herman Paul. Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2022)

Kerr, Clark, 1982, *The Uses of the University*.



Kwaschik, Anne, 2018, Der Griff nach dem Weltwissen.

Newfield, Christopher, 2017, The Great Mistake: How We Wrecked Public Universities and How We Can Fix Them.

Pardo-Guerra, Juan Pablo, 2022, forthcoming, The Quantified Scholar: How Research Evaluations Transformed the British Social Sciences, Columbia University Press.

Pellew, Jill, and Taylor, Miles, eds., 2001. Utopian Universities: A Global History of the New Campuses of the 1960s. Bloomsbury, 2021.

Shapin, Steven. 2008. The Scientific Life: A Moral History of a Late Modern Vocation. University of Chicago Press.

## **Contact the Organizers**

For questions regarding the academic content: [Anne Kwaschik](#)

For questions regarding practical issues: [Ramona Baumgartner](#), [Kathrin Ebel](#) and [Clara Feldmann](#)

## **Topic Week “European Universities”**

This workshop is listed in the event calendar of the DAAD Themenwoche “Europäische Hochschulen” (Topic Week “European Universities”) which is taking place from May 5th to 12th, 2022 and is featured in its social media campaign. To increase the visibility for this event and for ERUA in general, alongside the hashtag #ERUA you can use #EuropeanUniversities when posting on Instagram, Twitter, etc. to contribute to this campaign.



## Program

### Thursday, May 5th, 2022

| Time        | Topic                                                                                                                                                       | Chair                                                                                                                   | Room     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 13:30-14:00 | Coffee and Registration                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                         | Level R5 |
| 14:00-14:45 | Introduction                                                                                                                                                | <b>Kasper Risbjerg Eskildsen</b><br><i>Roskilde University</i><br><b>Anne Kwaschik</b><br><i>University of Konstanz</i> | R511     |
| 14:45-15:00 | Introduction to the Architecture of a Reform University                                                                                                     | <b>Margarete von Lupin</b><br><i>University of Konstanz</i>                                                             | R511     |
| 15:00-16:30 | Campus Tour<br><br><b>Charlotte Langowski / Christina Bächler / Margarete von Lupin, University of Konstanz:</b><br>The Architecture of a Reform University |                                                                                                                         |          |
| 17:00-18:30 | Keynote Speech                                                                                                                                              | <b>Anne Kwaschik</b><br><i>University of Konstanz</i>                                                                   | A703     |
|             | <b>Dorothea Debus, University of Konstanz:</b><br>Greetings                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                         |          |
|             | <b>William Whyte, University of Oxford:</b><br>Semper Reformanda: Reform and the University Through History                                                 |                                                                                                                         |          |
| 18:30       | Reception                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                         | Level K7 |



## Friday, May 6th, 2022

| Time        | Topic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Chair                                                      | Room  |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 09:30-11:00 | From Patronage to “Projectitis”: Funding and Reform                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Kasper Risbjerg Eskildsen<br><i>Roskilde University</i>    | V1001 |
|             | <p><b>Sophie Agulhon</b>, <i>University of Paris 8</i> &amp;<br/> <b>Gerardo Romo</b>, <i>University of Guadalajara / University of Paris 8</i>:<br/>           Patronage and Autonomy in the Modern University.<br/>           The Cases of the Universities of Guadalajara in Mexico and Paris 8 in France</p> <p><b>Anne Kwaschik</b>, <i>University of Konstanz</i>:<br/>           “Projectitis”, the Organization Scientist and the Invention of “Excellence”. Legacies of the 1960s</p> |                                                            |       |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                            |       |
| 11:30-12:30 | The Impact of Digitalisation on Higher Education                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Diego Frassinelli<br><i>University of Konstanz</i>         | V1001 |
|             | <p><b>Kristian Bankov</b>, <i>New Bulgarian University</i>:<br/>           The Impact of the Internet on University Research and Teaching:<br/>           An Overview</p> <p><b>Asher Boersma</b>, <i>University of Konstanz</i>:<br/>           Comments</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                            |       |
| 12:45-13:45 | Working Session: Future Activities of the Research Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Anastasia Constanterlou<br><i>University of the Aegean</i> | V1001 |
|             | Discussion on Joint Initiatives with Emphasis on Research and Publication Opportunities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                            |       |
| 13:45-15:00 | Lunch Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                            |       |
| 15:00-16:30 | Civic Education and Social Transformation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Sophie Agulhon<br><i>University of Paris 8</i>             | V1001 |
|             | <p><b>Kasper Risbjerg Eskildsen</b>, <i>Roskilde University</i>:<br/>           A World of Problems: Reform in Interwar North America</p> <p><b>Metodi Metodiev</b>, <i>New Bulgarian University</i>:<br/>           Ethics and Civic Activity in Higher Education: Truth, Post-Truth and Beyond</p>                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                            |       |
| 16:30-18:00 | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                            |       |

**18:00 Academic and Social Life in the City**

Charlotte Langowski, *University of Konstanz*:  
Tour to the origins of the University of Konstanz (meeting point: main entrance of the Münster (cathedral)) followed by a joint dinner in Restaurant Wessenberg

**Saturday, May 7th, 2022**

| Time        | Topic                                                                                                                                                                         | Chair                                                                                                                   | Room |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 10:00-11:30 | Europeanisation of Higher Education                                                                                                                                           | <b>Frank Wehinger</b><br><i>University of Konstanz</i>                                                                  | F425 |
|             | <b>Kristoffer Kropp</b> , <i>Roskilde University</i> :<br>Mapping Social Sciences in a European Social Space                                                                  |                                                                                                                         |      |
|             | <b>Panagiotis Grigoriou</b> , <i>University of the Aegean</i> :<br>History of Common European Memory.<br>Institutional Reforms and Education in the Light of the Human Rights |                                                                                                                         |      |
| 11:30-12:30 | Closing Session                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Kasper Risbjerg Eskildsen</b><br><i>Roskilde University</i><br><b>Anne Kwaschik</b><br><i>University of Konstanz</i> | F425 |
| From 12:30  | Optional: Walk, Talk & Wine                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                         |      |
|             | Enjoying the shores of Lake Constance along and on the water, in the vineyards and with a glass of wine in a winery.                                                          |                                                                                                                         |      |
|             | Option 1: Common lunch at the university and joint transfer to the ferry to Meersburg                                                                                         |                                                                                                                         |      |
|             | Option 2: Individual lunch and possibility to go back to the hotel, meeting point at 14:30 at the ferry to Meersburg                                                          |                                                                                                                         |      |

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