

## The role of universities for social and political integration – A workshop to develop an emerging research agenda

Following the kick-off conference of the project “European Universities – Critical Futures” in Copenhagen in May, this workshop will focus on one of the three core issues that the project identified as central, namely the role that universities play for social and political integration. Universities are central to the ‘Europe of Knowledge’ and the volume of higher education and research activities expanded whilst universities were ‘modernised’ into more coherent or corporatised organisations that are more instrumentally responsive to industry’s needs and more easily accountable to political aims (Wright and Oerberg 2015; Slaughter and Leslie 1999). At the same time, higher education institutions and even whole systems are facing more and more challenges when it comes to legitimizing their mission, role and work with regard to different reference groups. Societal challenges make these issues even more complex. However, there are no indications that what we observe now is the beginning of a fundamental shift away from the intensive and productive cooperation practices and values that have characterized higher education in Europe over the last decades. Hence, remaining key actors for European integration, universities face different challenges for negotiating a new pact with European societies (Gornitzka et al. 2007) on different issues. This theme of the project “European universities – critical futures” focuses on the roles of universities for social and political integration and tries to determine the role of universities in the knowledge society from this perspective. To this end, we want to discuss existing research with regard to these issues, and from this develop ideas on new avenues for future research, which also lead to new collaborative networks. So far, the work in the different research centers that has been done in this area can be clustered in three sub-themes:

Theme 1: social and political integration (e.g. social mobility, refugees, democracy),

Theme 2: integration of European research and higher education (e.g. global knowledge economy, ERA, EHEA)

Theme 3: the role of universities when Europe is in a shifting global context (e.g. China’s and other countries’ competing global strategies).

This three sub-themes will, together with the input from the kick-off conference in Copenhagen and the research interests of the participants, serve as the starting point for the workshop. The central aim of the workshop is to start a discussion and start developing a research agenda as well as concrete research collaborations on this issue. To this end, the workshop will provide a short introduction to the overall theme based on the research that has been undertaken in the collaborating higher education research centers. This is followed by an open forum to collect ideas and research questions related to the issue from the participants and structure them into different clusters. These clusters are then discussed in group work phases, for which the participants get together in small teams that select one or more research questions and work together throughout the workshop to further develop them towards more concrete research collaborations. The phases of group work are interrupted by plenary sessions where the results of the different groups are shared with all participants who also have the chance to provide further feedback.

Day 2 will start with an input presentation, which introduces the work that Gaële Goastellec is doing on the integration of refugees into higher education. Afterwards, the group work continues before the final plenary collects the different research collaborations that have been developed and provides space for final considerations on how the work on these potential research collaborations can be continued after the workshop.

**Day 1 – 26.8.2019**

12:00 – 13:00	Lunch and informal talks
13:00 – 14:00	Plenary: Welcome & introduction to the workshop;
14:00 – 15:00	Parallel group work, session 1
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:30	Parallel group work, session 2
16:30 – 17:30	Plenary 2: Short report from the thematic groups & feedback from others; Status-quo report from the different action groups that formed in Copenhagen;
	Dinner

Plenary 1:

- Introduction to the idea of the workshop
- Collect research themes / questions from participants on the theme of the workshop
- Present the 3 sub-themes that have been developed beforehand (including links to the literature list) and cluster the collected research questions
- Participants present their research interest in relation to the theme of the workshop
- Participants will cluster into working groups that will collaborate throughout the workshop
- Introduce the schedule for the rest of the day and expected outputs from thematic groups

Group Work session 1:

- Re-iterate the research questions / themes that have been collected in the morning, collect further ideas in the group
- Start forming sharpening specific questions / interests and start discussing the direction in which research on a specific issue should continue

Group Work session 2:

- Teams start structuring the question they are working on, prepare one page outlines on aims, design, research questions etc.

Plenary 2:

- Presentation of the results
- Feedback from other groups
- Status-quo report from the different action groups that formed in Copenhagen

## **Day 2 – 27.8.2019**

09:30 – 10:30	Presentation by Gaële Goastellec on her work on the integration of refugees into higher education
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Parallel group work, session 3
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 15:00	Plenary 3: Report from the thematic groups; discuss the road ahead; preview of the coming workshop;
	CHER conference

### Presentation:

- Gaële Goastellec will present some of her work on the integration of refugees into higher education

### Group Work session 3:

- Expand one page outline to a more substantial draft including a schedule for follow-up work, e.g. project application, writing a paper etc.
- Discuss potential follow-up work of the group → is there need / potential to collaborate across teams in the aftermath of the workshop?

### Plenary 3:

- Present results of the different working groups and discuss among participants the results and potential synergies among groups
- Provide preview of coming workshop
- Collect the plans for the work following the workshop in Kassel