

Mezinárodní konference (březen 2024) ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN A CHANGING WORLD

V březnu 2024 se na Univerzitě Palackého v Olomouci sešli odborníci, výzkumníci a pedagogové z různých akademických institucí včetně Katedry sociologie a sociální práce Západočeské univerzity v Plzni a Fakulty sociálních věd Metropolitní univerzity v Oslu, aby diskutovali o výzvách a příležitostech, před kterými stojí univerzity v dnešním rychle se měnícím světě.

Konferenci zahájila úvodním blokem proděkanka pro akreditaci a doktorské studium Filozofické fakulty Univerzity Palackého v Olomouci **Kristýna Solomon**. I s pomocí umělé inteligence nastínila, co je třeba udělat pro zajištění vyšší kvality vysokoškolského vzdělávání. Body zahrnovaly investice do vzdělání obecně, nabízení konkurenceschopných platů pro přilákání talentovaných pedagogů, uznání akademických úspěchů, podporu interdisciplinárního výzkumu, posílení profesního rozvoje, podporu akademické svobody, zvýšení globální spolupráce, integraci moderních technologií, zaměření na zapojení komunity a také hledání neustálého zlepšování kvality.

Hlavní řečníci, **Ann-Hélen Bay** z Metropolitní univerzity v Oslu a **Jaroslav Miller**, náměstek ministra školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy České republiky, poskytli inspirativní pohledy na budoucnost vysokoškolského vzdělávání. Ann-Hélen Bay s přítomnými diskutovala o humboldtovské myšlence univerzity ve srovnání s moderní institucí, která hraje v současné společnosti větší roli včetně potřeby identifikovat a řešit sociální problémy. Poukázala na nejdůležitější výzvy, kterým čelí vysokoškolské instituce, jako je masivní rozšíření vysokoškolského vzdělávání a jeho dopad na kvalitu, umělá inteligence, digitalizace různých agend a také hledání rovnováhy mezi akademickou excelencí a společenským dopadem.

Celý článek je možné si přečíst na stránkách:

<https://vedavyzkum.cz/z-domova/z-domova/konference-academic-institutions-in-a-changing-word-privitala-i-hosty-z-norska>

Mezinárodní konference s názvem "Academic institutions in a changing world" se konala 15. března 2024 na Katedře sociologie, andragogiky a kulturní antropologie Filozofické fakulty Univerzity Palackého v Olomouci, v rámci projektu **Management of Science and Sociology – Norwegian-Czech Cooperation** (reg. č. EHP-BFNU-OVNKM-4-108-2023). Akce byla financována v rámci 4. otevřené výzvy z Fondu pro bilaterální vztahy v rámci Grantů EHP a Norska 2014-2021.

International Conference (March 2024) ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS IN A CHANGING WORLD

The conference titled "Academic Institutions in a Changing World" took place on March 15, 2024, at the Department of Sociology, Education of Adult and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts of the Palacky University Olomouc. The conference is the final output of the project **Management of Science and Sociology - Norwegian-Czech Cooperation** (reg. no. EHP-BFNU-OVNKM-4-108-2023), funded in the 4th Open Call from the Fund for Bilateral Relations within the framework of the EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021.

The conference was a significant gathering of experts, researchers, and educators from various academic institutions, including the Department of Sociology and Social Work at West Bohemia University Pilsen and the Faculty of Social Sciences at Oslo Metropolitan University. Participants engaged in a series of productive discussions and presentations aimed at exploring the challenges and opportunities faced by academic institutions in today's rapidly evolving world.

Aleš Vlk moderated the conference, ensuring that the program ran smoothly and that all participants had the opportunity to contribute to the dialogue.

The conference kicked off with an informative and thought-provoking opening session by **Kristýna Solomon**, the Vice-Dean for Accreditation and Doctoral Studies of the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University in Olomouc. With the help of Artificial Intelligence, she discussed what should be done in order to ensure higher quality of higher education. The points included investing in education in general, offering competitive salaries to attract talented faculty, recognizing academic achievement, promoting interdisciplinary research, enhancing professional development, promoting academic freedom, increasing global collaboration, integrating modern technologies, focusing on community engagement and outreach, and finally searching for continuous quality improvement.

Keynote speakers, including **Ann-Hélen Bay** from Oslo Metropolitan University and **Jaroslav Miller**, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, provided valuable insights into the adaptations and future of higher education in the face of global challenges.

Ann Hélen Bay discussed the Humboldtian idea of a university in comparison with a modern institution that plays a larger role in contemporary society, including a need to identify and solve social problems. She pointed out the most important challenges faced by higher education institutions, such as the massification of higher education and its impact on quality, Artificial Intelligence, digitalization of various agendas, as well as finding the balance between academic excellence and societal relevance.

Jaroslav Miller discussed key aspects shaping the future of higher education, emphasizing the shift towards lifelong learning through upskilling and reskilling initiatives. He highlighted the importance of flexibility, creativity, and digitization of the economy, including AI integration. He also advocated for collaboration between academia, industry, governments, and NGOs to offer short-term certified courses and microcredentials. Furthermore, he underscored the significance of networking university clusters to boost European universities' global competitiveness and unify the European higher education system. Furthermore, Miller also explored new forms of internationalization, such as virtual student exchanges and blended intensive programs, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact. Lastly, he emphasized the need to address unequal access to education across Europe by providing state-funded financial support and student aid schemes to ensure that no child is left behind in pursuing higher education.

Throughout the day, various sessions were dedicated to discussing strategies and reforms in academic institutions. Topics ranged from the strategy for discussing divisive topics in universities to

the regulation of the academic sphere by the state. **Pål Veiden, Petr Jurek, Siri Borlaug, and Pavel Hulec** shared their expertise and research findings, sparking engaging discussions among attendees.

Pål Veiden and Petr Jurek shared the experience of discussing divisive topics in Norway and Czechia. Siri Borlaug discussed research assessment reforms in Norway and, more specifically, where researcher's public their papers and why. Petr Jurek and Pavel Hudec explained in their Czech case study how the academic state is regulated by the state.

The conference also delved into challenges for universities, with sessions focusing on PhD studies and students. Presentations on the assessment of sustainable development strategy at public universities by **Tomáš Kopta**, tools for navigating universities in a changing world presented by **František Kalvas**, and examples of evaluation evolution by **Tomáš Holešovský** provided valuable insights into the current landscape of higher education.

Discussions on the relevance of spirituality in social work exploration and the need for standardized forms of academic social work in doctoral education by **Jan Kaňák** underscored the importance of addressing societal needs and advancing the fields of sociology and education.

In conclusion, the conference served as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and networking among researchers and educators dedicated to shaping the future of academic institutions. The insightful presentations, lively discussions, and shared experiences highlighted the critical role of academic institutions in addressing societal challenges and driving positive change in a dynamic and complex world.



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