

Higher Education in the World 7

Humanities and Higher Education: Synergies between Science, Technology and Humanities

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3Os	Open Science, Open Innovation, Open to the World	CNRI	National Research Council of Italy
AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science	CNRS	National Scientific Research Council (France)
ACM	Association for Computing Machinery	COB	Oceanographic Centre of the Balearic Islands
ACU	Association of Commonwealth Universities	COMBINE	Complementary Methods in Evaluation Research
ACUP	Association of Catalan Public Universities	CONACYT	National Council of Science and Technology of Mexico
ADN	Asia Democracy Network	CONICET	National Council of Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina
ADRN	Asia Democracy Research Networks	CoPs	Communities of Practice
AECHE	Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education	CPN	Center for the Promotion of Science
AERC	African Economic Research Consortium	CRAI	Resource Center for Learning and Research
AI	Artificial Intelligence	CRES	Regional Conference on Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean
AMC	Mexican Academy of Sciences	CRUE	Spanish Conference of Rectors
AMH	Academy of Mobility Humanities	CSIC	Superior Council of Scientific Research of Spain
AMHN	Asia Mobility Humanities Network	CSO	Civil Society Organization
AMRUT	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation	CVD	Cardiovascular Disease
APU	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University	DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
AQuAS	Agency for Health Quality and Assessment of Catalonia	DIY	Do It Yourself
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder	DoE	Department of Education
AWMF	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	DOI	Digital Object Identifier
BG	Business Games	DORA	Declaration on Research Assessment
BISS	Barcelona International Summer School	DUT	Durban University of Technology
BMAS	German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	EASSH	European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities
BOAI	Budapest Open Access Initiative	EC	European Commission
C3	Center for Complexity Sciences	ECLAC/CEPAL	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
CAHS	Canadian Academy of Health Sciences	ECRC	Engaged Citizens, Responsive City
CBOs	Community Based Organisations	ECRs	Early Career Researchers
CBPR	Community Based Participatory Research	ECSA	European Citizen Science Association
CE	Community Engagement	ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
Cedefop	European Center for the Development of Vocational Training	EE	Environmental Education
CEIPAC	Center for the Study of Provincial Interdependence in Ancient Classics	EGERA	Effective Gender Equality in Research and the Academia
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research	EH	Environmental Humanities
CfH	Center for the Humanities	EHEA	European Higher Education Area
CGE	Center for Global Engagement	EHL	Environmental Humanities Laboratory
CHCI	Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes	EIA	Engagement and Impact Assessment
CHE	Center for Culture, History and the Environment	EMI	English-Medium Instruction
CHR	Centre for Humanities Research	ENRESSH	Evaluative Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities
CLACSO	Latin American Council of Social Sciences	ENST-Bretagne	National School of Telecommunications of Brittany
CNPEM	Brazilian Center for Research in Energy and Materials		

EOCGE	Employer of Choice for Gender Equality	IBEI	Barcelona Institute of International Studies
EOSC	The European Open Science Cloud	IBSE	Inquiry-Based Science Education
EPNet	Economic and Political Network	IC	Institutional Change
ERA	European Research Area	ICAEN	Catalan Institute for Energy
ERA	Excellence in Research Australia	ICO	Oncology Institute of Catalonia
ERC	European Research Council	ICOM	International Council of Museum
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning	ICRA	International Conference on Robotics and Automation
ESA	European Space Agency	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development	IDRC	International Development Research Center
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures	IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
ESO	European Southern Observatory	IEO	Spanish Institute of Oceanography
ESTEAM	Ethics, Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering and Mathematics	IESALC	International Higher Education Institute for Latin America and the Caribbean
EU	European Union	IIHed	The International Institute for Higher Education Research and Capacity building
EUA	European University Association	IISEE	Research Institute on University and Education
EUIFP	European Union Framework Programme	IUM	International Islamic University Malaysia
Euratom	European Atomic Energy Community	ILO	International Labour Organization
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-Usable	IMEDEA	Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies
FLACSO	Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences	IoT	Internet of Things
FNU	Fiji National University	IRH	Institute for Research in the Humanities
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent	IRI	Institute of Industrial Informatics and Robotics
FPs	Framework Programmes	IROS	International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems
FTA	Free Trade Agreements	ISA	Higher Institute of Arts of Cuba
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas	ISRIA	International School on Research Impact Assessment
GAFA	Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon	ISS	Institute of Social Studies
GAMe	Young Mediterranean Ambassadors Group	ITP	Interactive Telecommunications Program
GCEP	Global Competency Enhancement Programme	ITU	International Telecommunication Union
GEP	Gender Equality Policy	JGU	O.P. Jindal Global University
GHG	Greenhouse Gases	JIBS	Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences
GIS	Geographic Information Systems	JIRICO	Jindal Initiative on Research in IP and Competition
GM Foods	Genetically Modified	JMU	James Madison University
GS	Global Situation	JRC	Joint Research Centre
GUNi	Global University Network for Innovation	JSiE	Jindal Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
GWd	Gigawatt-days	K4C	Knowledge for Change
HAT	Humanities, Arts, Technology	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions	KTH	Royal Institute of Technology
HEIW	Higher Education in the World Report	LBGTQ	Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Queer
HESP	Hispanic and European Studies Program	LBGTQIA	Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexuality
HfE	Humanities for the Environment Observatories	LERU	League of European Research Universities
HLW	High-Level Waste		
HPV	Human Papillomavirus Infection		
HR	Human Resources		
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency		
IAEN	National Institute of Higher Studies		
IAS	Institute for Advanced Study		
IAU	International Association of Universities		

LIBER	Association of European Research Libraries	PUCE	Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador
LINCC	Laboratory on Climate Change	R&D	Research and Development
LNNano	Brazilian Nanotechnology National Laboratory	R&I	Research and Innovation
LWR	Light-Water Reactor	RCC	Rachel Carson Center for Society and the Environment
MCU	Magna Charta Universitatum	RCUK	Research Councils United Kingdom
MECD	Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports	REF	Research Excellence Framework
MED-HUB	Knowledge Hub on the Euro-Mediterranean region	RIA	Research Impact Assessment
MENA	Middle East and North Africa	RMEI	Network of Mediterranean Engineering Schools
MESA	Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities	RRI	Responsible Research and Innovation
MHE	Mobility Humanities Education Center	RTDI	Research, Technology Development and Innovation
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	SAHECEF	South African Higher Education Community Engagement Forum
MNAC	National Museum of Art of Catalonia	SAQA	South African Qualifications Authority
MOOC	Massive Online Open Course	SBM-U	Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions	SDGCA	Sustainable Development Goal Center for Africa
MSD	Musculoskeletal Disorder	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
MSED	Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development	SEA	Andorra's Educational System
MTG	Music Technology Group	SEBD	Spanish Society of Developmental Biology
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training	SEKCI	Organic Code on the Social Economy of Knowledge, Creativity and Innovation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	SEP	Standard Evaluation Protocol
NKUA	National Kapodistrian University of Athens	SET	Students' Evaluations of Teachers
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation	SF	Science Fiction
NSB	National Science Board	SHTEAM	Science, Humanities, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Medicine
NSF	National Science Foundation	SICs	Settlement Improvement Committees
NUI	National University of Ireland	Sida	Swedish International Development Agency
NWO	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research	SiS	Science in Society
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	SKB	Swedish Nuclear Waste Management
OFCE	French Economic Observatory	SMAC	Social, Mobile, Analytics and Cloud
OIP	Office of International Programs	SMEs	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
ORCID	Open Researcher and Contributor ID	SNF	Spent Nuclear Fuel
OSPP	Open Science Policy Platform	SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies
PAR	Participatory Action Research	SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
PCT	Patent Cooperation Treaty	SSH	Social Sciences and Humanities
PERMSEA	Strategic Plan for the Overhaul and Improvement of Andorra's Education System	STEAM	Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering and Mathematics
PISA	Participant Platform for Innovation, Social Inclusion and Active citizenship	STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
PRESAGE	Research and Teaching Program of Knowledge on Gender	STS	Science-Technology Studies
PRIA	Participatory Research in Asia	SUNY	State University of New York
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area	SwafS	Science with and for Society
PRIU	Regional Platform for University Integration	TARGET	Taking a Reflexive Approach to Gender Equality for Institutional Transformation in Mare Nostrum
PSE	Participatory Settlement Enumeration	TCNJ	The College of New Jersey
PSET	Post School Education and Training		
PUA	Participatory Urban Appraisal		

TDR	Teacher Design Research	UniRitter	Ritter dos Reis University Center
TEACHENER	Integrating Social Sciences and Humanities into Teaching about Energy	UNLP	National University of La Plata
TeRRIFICA	Territorial Responsible Research and Innovation Fostering Innovative Climate Action	UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
TFP	Total Factor productivity	UNU-EHS	United Nations University Institute for Environment & Human Security
THE	Times Higher Education	UNU-WIDER	United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research
tHM	Tonne of Heavy Metal	UOC	Open University of Catalonia
TMX	Translation Memory eXchange	UoN	University of Nairobi
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training	UoTs	Colleges and Universities of Technology
UAB	Autonomous University of Barcelona	UPC	Polytechnic University of Catalonia-BarcelonaTech
UAM	Autonomous University of Madrid	UPF	Pompeu Fabra University
UAZ	Autonomous University of Zacatecas	UPV	University of the Basque Country
UB	University of Barcelona	URV	Rovira i Virgili University
UBA	University of Buenos Aires	USIM	Board of Directors for Islamic Science University Malaysia
UCL	University College of London	USM	University Sains Malaysia
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles	USP	University of the South Pacific
UdeG	Universidad de Guadalajara	UVic	Vic University
UdG	University of Girona	UWC	University of the Western Cape
UdL	University of Lleida	VESS	Meaningful Life with Balance and Wisdom
UEA	University of East Anglia	VET	Vocational Education and Training
UEMF	EuroMediterranean University Fes	WEF	World Economic Forum
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean	WHO	World Health Organisation
UFZ	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
UIB	University of the Balearic Islands	WP	Work Programmes
UIC	International University of Catalonia	WTO	World Trade Organization
UID	Unique Identification Document	WW2	World War Two
UMAC	University Museums and Collections		
UN	United Nations		
UNA	National Arts University		
UNAE	National University of Education of Ecuador		
UNAM	National Autonomous University of Mexico		
UNAN	National Autonomous University of Nicaragua		
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations		
UNDESD	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development		
UNDP	United Nations Development Program		
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples		
UNE	United Nations Environment		
UNEARTE	National University of Experimentation of the Arts		
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization		
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		
Unicamp	University of Campinas		
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund		
UNIMED	Mediterranean Universities Union		

About the Authors

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Martín Barajas was born in the city of Guadalajara, Jalisco (Mexico), which is where he attended school. After graduating in 1980 with a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Surgery, in 1981 he became a full-time professor of clinical practice, an activity that he still performs today. In 2004, he obtained a Master's Degree in Education with Intervention in Educational Practice and in 2012 completed 100% of the credits for a PhD in Education Sciences. For the last 16 years, he has been working as an advisor on Planning and Coordination to the University Centre of Health Sciences (CUCS) at the University of Guadalajara, as well as serving as a full-time professor at that university, where he has been recognised for his Desirable Profile by the Program for the Professional Development of Teaching. He has participated in several high-impact tasks, of particular note being the 22 years served as a member of the Advisory Board to the Degree in Dental Surgery taught at the CUCS. He was involved in the draft of the 2014-2030 CUCS Institutional Development Plan, as well as being the author or co-author of several scientific publications.

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Rosi Braidotti is a Philosopher and Distinguished University Professor at Utrecht University and director of the Centre for the Humanities in Utrecht. She has taught at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands since 1988, when she was appointed as the founding professor of women's studies. In 1995 she became the founding Director of the Netherlands research school of Women's Studies, a position she held until 2005. She was a Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor at Birkbeck College in 2005-6; a Jean Monnet professor at the European University Institute in Florence in 2002-3 and a fellow in the school of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton in 1994. Influenced by philosophers such as Gilles Deleuze and especially "French feminist" thinker Luce Irigaray, Braidotti has brought postmodern feminism into the Information Age with her considerations of cyberspace, prosthesis, and the materiality of difference. Braidotti also considers how ideas of gender difference can affect our sense of the human/animal and human/machine divides. Braidotti has also pioneered European perspectives in feminist philosophy and practice and has been influential on third-wave and post-secular feminisms as well as emerging posthumanist thought.

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Marina Garcés is a philosopher and full university professor. After fifteen years at the University of Zaragoza, she is currently an associate professor at the Open University of Catalonia, where she manages the Masters in Philosophy for contemporary challenges. Her latest books are *Un mundo común* (Bellaterra, 2012) *Filosofía inacabada* (Galaxia Gutenberg, 2015), *Fuera de clase* (Galaxia Gutenberg, 2016), *Nueva ilustración radical* (Anagrama, 2017, Ciutat de Barcelona Essay Award 2017) and *Ciudad princesa* (Galaxia Gutenberg, 2018). Since 2002, she has also been working on the collective thinking programme titled *Espai en Blanc*. She believes in the statement of commitment to life as a shared problem and her philosophy involves widespread experimentation with ideas, learning and ways of intervening in our modern world.

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Gloria Jové has focused her scientific career on teacher training based on inclusive schools. She started her scientific production in critical pedagogy and action research, looking at ways to change educational models that do not help people processes. Since 2007, she and her research team have learned to communicate and think about art, especially contemporary art, to expand knowledge, and become aware of the heterogeneous training processes within higher education. This has enabled her research to expand on a methodology based on how learning around art, through inter and transdisciplinarity practices and using the community resources offered by the territory and public space, can be used in training and make us thoughtful, creative, critical, inclusive and professional teachers.

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Carles Lalueza-Fox is a Research Professor at the Institute of Evolutionary Biology (CSIC-UPF). He is a leading scientist in Europe on paleogenetics, and one of the few experts in the field that has been active since the mid-nineties. His research covers several lines, including the phylogenetic analysis of some extinct species, the genomic analysis of human populations of the past -including archaic hominids such as Neanderthals- and the retrieval of ancient pathogens. He also participated in the Neanderthal Genome Project. He has published more than 130 scientific papers, including several in *Nature*, in *Science* and in *PNAS*, which are considered the three main generalist science journals. In addition to his work as a researcher, Lalueza-Fox is committed to science outreach and has published eleven popular science books, mainly on diversity and racism, ancient DNA, Neanderthal genomics and De-extinction.

Aurora Lechuga is studying for a PhD in Pedagogy at the Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) at Ciudad Universitaria. He has masters and bachelor's degrees in Pedagogy from the same university. He has attended national and international conferences in Ecuador and Argentina on the subject of Artistic Education. He is currently conducting a research project on education for public universities of the arts in Latin America and the Caribbean, namely La Universidad Nacional de las Artes (UNA), Argentina, El Instituto Superior de Artes (ISA), Cuba, La Universidad de las Artes (Arte y Cultura), (UARTES) and La Universidad Nacional de Experimentación de las Artes (UNEARTE), Venezuela. The study forms part of the UNESCO Chair on "University and Regional Integration" Seminars directed by Dr. Axel Didriksson Takayanagui.

Marta Llop began her career as a Social Sciences teacher (1985-1990). She then went on to become Head of Andorra's Education Department (1990-2004), head of studies at Santa Coloma Secondary School in Andorra (2004-2014); and a teaching specialist under the PERMSEA strategic plan (2014-2018). In the current 2018-19 academic year, she is combining her work as a teaching specialist and head of studies. Author and/or coordinator of a number of education-related publications in the field of social sciences for Andorra's

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Federico Mayor Zaragoza is a Spanish scientist, politician, scholar and social change activist. Director-General of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, 1987-1999). He was originally a professor of Biochemistry at the University of Granada, where he later held the post of Chancellor (1968-1972). He pioneered neonatal diagnosis and the treatment of diseases that can lead to irreversible neonatal damage. At the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) in 1973 he was the Co-founder of the Centre of Molecular Biology “Severo Ochoa”. Minister of Education and Science (1981). Chair of the European Research Council Expert Group (2003). Co-President of the Commission that gave rise to the UN Alliance of Civilizations Programme (2006). Chair of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (2010-2017). At the UAM in 2016 he set up the Institute of Human Rights, Democracy, Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (DEMOS-PAZ).

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Piotr Stankiewicz is a PhD – sociologist, assistant professor at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun (Poland) and director of Educational Research Institute in Warsaw. Coordinator of the educational project TEACHENER: Integrating Social Sciences and Humanities into Teaching about Energy. The project aims to fill the gap between social sciences and humanities and energy teaching at universities in Europe, by transposing social sciences and humanities knowledge to the domain of higher technical education. The project is conducted by a partnership of seven SSH and technical higher education institutions from Poland, Spain, Germany and the Czech Republic and financed within the Erasmus+ scheme.

Lee Sternberger is Associate Provost in Academic Affairs and Executive Director of the Office of International Programs (OIP). She leads a campus-wide effort to internationalize university curricula, services and programs, and coordinates global and international activities across JMU's seven colleges. Dr. Sternberger earned her B.A. in Economics from the University of Missouri (Columbia), her M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Washington State University, and an M.A. in Architectural History from the University of Virginia; she has

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Rajesh Tandon is a doctor and internationally acclaimed leader and practitioner of participatory research and development. He founded the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), a voluntary organization providing support to grassroots initiatives in South Asia, and has continued to be its chief officer since 1982. In 2012, he was appointed co-chair of the UNESCO Chair on Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, which is an outcome of and supports UNESCO's global mission to play 'a key role in assisting countries to build knowledge societies'. Tandon has authored more than 100 articles, a dozen books and numerous training manuals on democratic governance, civic engagement, civil society, governance and management of NGOs, participatory research and people-centred development.

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A Regional Approach

The Latin American University: Science and Technology Seen from the Humanities – Emer(conver)ging Issues

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Abstract

The system of university disciplines and the fragmentation of its profession-oriented academic results and processes have meant that the management of new knowledge, the synergy between the humanities, science and technology, the interdisciplinary organization of the curriculum, governance structures and the representation of its main actors and communities have not been the prevailing trend. The dominant form of university is still that with a strong identity and historic roots that is closely tied to the student protests and historical contexts of the different countries, especially the legacy of the 1918 Student Reform Movement, which arose at the University of Córdoba, Argentina, and spread to most universities across the region. This mood still prevails today and the affinity remains strong. This paper not only emphasizes the historical and current context of reference, but also presents a set of emerging/converging concepts that are under debate in the Latin American and Caribbean region, with major changes in the way that science and technology are seen from the perspective of humanities, in terms of new paradigmatic, epistemic and intercultural platforms and prefigurations that have arisen at a significant number of Latin American universities.

Introduction

The university system in Latin America and the Caribbean has a Napoleonic profession-oriented tradition, and its organizational and academic structure is strongly rooted in schools and faculties, divided into tight and rigid fields of knowledge, with its research centers and institutes physically and academically separated from one other. This same scenario has been reproduced and remains predominant at most of the public universities in the region, despite all the advances that have been made in recent decades, as shown in this paper.

In June 2018, UNESCO held its Regional Conference on Higher Education in the framework of the centenary of the reform movement, which across the region had promoted and established university autonomy, co-governance (parity in the representation of students, lecturers and authorities on collegiate bodies), the right to receive a subsidy from the state, and a critical position of the university towards society, the economy and political powers. The legacy of this reform is a model that is deep-rooted in the region, but which continues to be a matter of debate and study and the cause of movements that support, resent or criticize, because of what it represents as one of the core principles on which public Latin American and Caribbean universities are based, in close relation to a pattern of scientific-technological dependence and subordination to different world powers.

Hence the final declaration of this multitudinous event (with more than 12,000 participants) reflects the conviction of the need to advance with the transformation of the region's university and higher education systems, based on a vision of science and technology from the point of view of the humanities, inter-cultural matters, inclusion and equity.

In the last two decades, knowledge management and the organization of university teaching and research have been focusing on the construction of academic spaces that operate and integrate in converging and emerging networks, associations and work teams, in order for these interdisciplinary conglomerates to be in direct correspondence with policies and programs for social inclusion, equity, and inter-cultural and regional integration, based on the identification of universities with the principles of public good, and universal human rights. It should therefore be understood that the transformation of university structures and the critical positioning of its regional tendencies are not, and should not be, an obstacle to achieving new platforms of articulation, integration, innovation, territorially and socially responsible research and reforms of the current academic systems.

This tendency to rearrange academic spaces based on social commitment and inter-culturality, and particularly the defense of the human and social sciences, without ignoring their articulation with formal and natural sciences and technology (see attached appendix), is growing, but at the local and regional levels, especially with the innovation of new branches and with additional sites being built in the most developed universities, and with the new networks and associations that have been promoted in recent years, and the new national universities that have been created in different countries in the last two decades.

According to the experience of universities in the region, this academic and organizational innovation has been encouraged in a much more coordinated manner, with the organization of research centers working in fields such as nanotechnology, genomics, biosciences, microelectronics, biotechnology, sustainability and the environment, connecting the social sciences with formal sciences, from the perspective of complexity (see Case Study), to mention just a few, as well as with others that focus on the convergence of the humanities and the arts with inter-culturality, social sciences, governance and education. There have been many recent examples of knowledge production that have successfully created systems of convergence among disciplines, in all fields of knowledge.

The most active and dynamic academic groups and networks in the region are becoming more and more aware of the fact that disciplinary lines of work are no longer sufficient or relevant by themselves to tackle

contemporary phenomena and the complexity of modern-day issues that require more coordinated efforts of epistemological transgression to attain converging and socially responsible academic management. This should be viewed as a tendency that needs to be developed as soon as possible, encompassing a greater quantity and quality of processes, especially high-level learning and research-innovation processes, as well as those associated with the work of new regional or international networks.

Winds of Change in Higher Education

In Latin America and the Caribbean, poverty affects 200 million people, of whom 88 million live in extreme poverty, and representing more than 25% of the total population. The last two decades of the last century witnessed a series of economic crises throughout the region, leading them to be dubbed 'the lost decades'⁽¹⁾, followed by other crises, such as the one of 2009. Also, on a political level, some democratic regimes have collapsed, leading to right-wing and neo-fascist governments, which have only worsened the desperate plight of millions of human beings, mostly children and young adults.

Despite an increase in gross enrollment rates in the Latin American and Caribbean higher education system, the universalization of the tertiary level continues to be a typical phenomenon of the most developed countries, where the number of university students accounts for 60% to 70% of the corresponding age group, whereas in Latin America it accounts for between 25% and 40%, with some notable exceptions, such as Cuba. Enrollment rates at the post-graduate level show even lower indicators, and are highly concentrated in five countries.

1. "Indeed, after the failure of the IMF and World Bank's Structural Adjustment Programs implemented in the region in the 1980s, the 1990s witnessed a certain economic upturn that did not however succeed in reverting the upward trend in absolute poverty rates, whereas relative poverty rates fell by 5 points in the 1990-1997 period, representing 43% of the population by the end of this period. At the same time, Latin America is still the most unequal region in the world, with the highest quintile's share of income vastly exceeding that of the lowest quintile by 10 to 16 times". See: Bonal, Xavier. "Educacion y pobreza en America Latina: reflexiones y orientaciones para nuevas agendas politicas". In: Bonal, Xavier (Editor). Globalizacion, Educacion y Pobreza en America Latina. Fundacion CIDOB, Barcelona, 2006, p. 11.

This has a negative impact on the possibilities for social mobility, job promotion, and job placement rates of graduates from secondary, upper secondary and higher education, on account of the socio-economic disparities that are reproduced in the education system⁽²⁾.

At present, the increase in the number of school age children has introduced the question of universalization and free access to education as key items on the new equity agenda for higher education systems, viewed as a step towards growth in incorporation of the corresponding age group in the contemporary processes of knowledge production and transfer, significant learning, and multiple, coordinated, relevant, significant and socially meaningful knowledge development.

According to the UNESCO Science Report: towards 2030 (2015), the break-down of enrollment by field of knowledge in Latin America is as follows: 55.8% in social and administrative sciences; 5.6% in science; 14.0% in engineering and technology; 5.6% in agriculture; 6.45% in humanities⁽³⁾.

When comparisons are made, the general panorama regarding knowledge advancement is highly unequal, as it is highly concentrated in a few countries and is not at all dynamic, due to the aforesaid factors and also the brain drain (there are more Latin American postgraduate students in US or European universities (122,806) than in the region (33,546) (p.182), low investment rates in higher education (1% or less, on average) and a concentration of doctoral studies in three particular countries: Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico. The largest investment in R&D is made by the state (60.8%) and only involves a handful of universities and researchers (p.195), most of them also

concentrated in these three countries (138,653 in Brazil; 51,685 in Argentina, and 43,592 in Mexico (p. 184).

However, both the reduction in public resources and the privatization of education services (mostly only available to a small and specific population segment in accordance with their payment capabilities) have undermined the capacity of many countries to expand their education services in order to adapt to growing demands, especially in the state-run system, a situation observed even in most of the largest and most developed countries of the region. In addition to this, we must also mention the unequal conditions with regard to continuous and successful education trajectories, which are hampered by large wage and salary gaps, belonging to certain ethnic groups, gender and language issues, physical disabilities and other geographical and suburban determinants.

Debate on the Synergy between the Humanities, Science and Technology: Emerging/Converging Issues

In the following sections, the authors have selected a series of focuses, methodological and conceptual approaches and university practices and alternatives that are being developed to achieve the goal proposed for the region: to transform universities on the basis of their historical foundations and their status as a shared and social resource.

As shown, the aim of this collaborative approach is to present the way the current trend towards inequality and exclusion on a university level can be shifted towards initiatives that seek to democratize knowledge, leading to alternative efforts to build synergy between science and technology from the perspective of the social sciences, arts, culture and the humanities.

1. Social Inclusion Policies

Its history and a tendency to question the regional reality have made the Latin American university model unique. Based on political and critical reflections on education and society, its universities challenge their unequal and non-democratic societies, while advocating from within their own organizations for academic and research freedom, as well as co-governance, as a

2. According to a study by the OECD (2015), the educational level of workers vis-a-vis their actual job is the lowest among its member countries, with a fall in their rate of return in recent years. This is reflected in the gap between the skills taught in the education system and the requirements of sectors of the job market (p. 21). More than half of the people classified as belonging to the 'middle class' are in the informal sector (p. 22), hence their salaries are lower than those earned by workers in the formal sector, despite having the same level of education (Idem). See OECD/CAF/UN ECLAC. (2015). Latin American Economic Outlook 2015: Education, Skills and Innovation for Development. Paris: OECD Publishing.

3. Unesco Science Report (2015). UNESCO, Paris, p. 182. "Six out of ten graduates at the bachelor level specialize in social science, compared to only about one in seven for engineering and technology. This trend contrasts starkly with that in emerging economies such as China, Korea and Singapore, where the vast majority of graduates study engineering and technology. The region has never recovered from the disaffection for the latter fields witnessed at the turn of the century" (p. 181).

vehicle to encourage real participation among their subjects (Leite 2018; Didriksson 2018). This brings together extracurricular, research and teaching activities with a commitment to social responsibility and integration.

A primary condition for any university to engage in social and cognitive transformation is to be committed to wholesale transformation of their own structures. In order to devise forms of social, political and cultural change that are dynamically and critically coordinated with the creation of better conditions for the development and behavior of young people in society, collaboration between universities and schools needs to be intensified in order to offer more qualified training and greater opportunities in the schooling of the young.

It is therefore a case of examining the processes with the intention of reverting any excluding mechanisms involved in the academic methods of the region, which concerns not only access to university but also the permanence of students on any given program, as there are high drop-out, absenteeism and late graduation rates. Governance needs to re-focus on building more democratic participation processes for the under-represented or excluded from the education and meaningful learning systems.

The approach presented herein not only focuses on the use of inclusion mechanisms, but also discusses the possibility of tackling the kinds of educational and social exclusion that have traditionally been produced and sustained in Latin American society.

It must be understood that the policy of 'affirmative action', as adopted in several countries in recent years, is a fundamental resource in order for certain social segments to gain access to higher education, in such a way that it facilitates dialogue with the students that constitute the new generations, most of all the sons and daughters of non-schooled parents, who could then contribute to the production of knowledge outside of traditional university settings. This is based on the understanding that students with new profiles, biographies and social backgrounds are active agents in problematizing and proposing when it comes to discussion and improvement of the public nature of higher education institutions. Their agency is directly associated with movements, causes, or even work and everyday dynamics in general. These aspects of affirmative action policies are directly related with actions that seek to enhance social insertion at university.

The sense of belonging associates the validity or relevance of higher education with social practice. This goes beyond mere insertion in the labor system, and also includes cultural democratization as well as the ability to respond to long-term social and human development needs. This sense of belonging also refers to the capacity for proposing solutions for local, regional, and global problems. As shown in the above data, the search for solutions to social problems through higher education lies in the assumption of responsibilities to fight against inequality. Among the alternatives that have emerged in the last decade, in the sense of making higher education more relevant, we can cite the commitments to strengthening basic education schools and enabling access to higher education in state-run and free-of-charge institutions, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, especially in the case of disadvantaged social groups.

The fact that 'affirmative inclusion policies' exist does not mean that they have been assimilated in university contexts: some institutions or specific programs have taken the initiative to implement affirmative actions that need to be organized in the short, medium and long terms in order to become truly effective, as these policies for broader access at the institutional and national levels need to be expanded.

In addition to this, affirmative actions need to be viewed as a whole; this means that they should not be restricted to merely establishing university quotas for excluded sectors. Programs should not only design mechanisms to ensure that these groups of people enroll for university courses, but it is also indispensable for permanence policies to be formulated. There is a need to fight the subtle mechanisms that limit the possibilities for students to make progress with their work and be recognized as subjects in full exercise of their rights within the institutional framework.

When developed for other social groups, affirmative policies should also be accompanied by new study and research horizons. From the moment these social groups gain access to university, topics, theories and problems related to their realities, their know-how and their experiences become valued. Therefore, education for diversity and against discrimination gains strength when curricular changes, especially to degree or undergraduate courses, are encouraged. From that moment on, society will start to find itself again and appreciate how central an issue

inequality is, and the extent to which public policy needs to be reoriented accordingly.

2. Art and Culture: Essential Components

For ten years, we have been witnessing major movements in terms of art and artistic production in the academic field, a movement that has been extended to the regional and international arena and which has had an impact on the university system.

Based on this concept, the question that needs to be asked and addressed as a problem is whether we can view artistic production as a form of knowledge production and research. And, even more so, to what extent can we view art as a form of research that transforms the notion of art and science, or, perhaps, in what sense has this already been thought, acted upon, represented, and institutionalized as knowledge reflecting an immanent process in both art and science?⁽⁴⁾ What kind of knowledge is it? How does it relate to the new production conditions that prevail in contemporary life within the framework of the so-called knowledge economies or cognitive capitalism?

The use of the term ‘artistic research’ and not research on the arts, leads us to consider the socio-political and economic conditions that have made this reconfiguration of mutually exclusive semantic fields possible, but it also warns us of the ideological assumptions that the new articulations between art, science and technology entail in the context of current socio-economic configurations.

Thus, research on the arts has thus become a field of opportunity for exploring comparative analyses and alternative research models capable of updating intersections between perception, affection and ideas. It is an expanding, wandering and erratic territory since it comes from very diverse perspectives and disciplines, and, precisely for this reason, it may blur the boundaries between solid and institutionalized fields of study.

We can broadly identify two positions that are currently under debate in the region: on the one hand, criticism of increasing control over knowledge production (in terms of accreditation mechanisms and standards) that imposes

its own methodologies and evaluation criteria of artistic research to the detriment of its critical potential and, on the other hand, a conception that identifies the emerging forms of modern-day art as performativity, intangibility and creativity and places them at the epicenter of the socio-economic transformations of the knowledge society. In both cases, the role of education and art institutions must be examined in the light of the impact that artistic production has on the knowledge economy.

The former position describes the fundamental role that academic institutions play in the ever-growing knowledge commercialization process: a shift from the concept of value as objectification of material work to the idea of innovation and knowledge as intangible ‘raw materials’ to generate value in the new era of capitalism. Artistic production, traditionally on the margins of academic institutions and at the antipodes of the scientific model, would continue to be the domain of freedom and resistance. Its inclusion in the dynamics of institutional research models would cause, claims this view, a depletion of the creative powers of art: its power to transgress and displace the norm.

In our view, the latter position considers the problem in a more complex and dialectical manner. In principle, it involves considering the way that art (the aesthetic regimes that validate it and the practices in which it is deployed) connects with economic and social processes. It questions the discourse that (claiming to be the guardian of the supposedly critical purity of the work of art) merely validates the ideological model that heightens its uselessness and social marginality. It postulates the interweaving of art and its material conditions of existence since, as pointed out by W. Benjamin: “there has never been a document of culture, which is not simultaneously a document of barbarism”.

All these issues are floating on the horizon of our professional practice as teachers, researchers and stakeholders in the area of university management; they guide us and represent new challenges when it comes to design strategies and implementing projects related to artistic education.

We believe there is a need to examine the difficulties arising when formalizing higher education processes in the various artistic disciplines, incorporating criteria of technical quality, evaluation and research, with the specificity that these processes are explicitly assumed as a form of resistance to the models and standards employed as means for accreditation and professionalization at

4. At the dawn of modernity and with the founding of modern science, art and science were set apart. Art became the reserve of direct, immediately sensitive experiences that are not mediated by reason. Thus, experience and certainty became incompatible, mutually exclusive fields; experience, now within the realm of art, was definitively dismissed from the field of scientific knowledge and (because of the ideological operation that matches the universal with the particular) from the field of knowledge in general as well.

universities, and which tend towards homogenization and internationalization, thus subordinating them to the dominant models of knowledge production. As stated at the CRES-2008, held in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia: “The movement from that which is national or regional toward that which is the global (global public good) has as a consequence the strengthening of existing hegemonies.”

Thus, artistic education and research at the higher education level must generate strategies to resist the advance of a university project subjected to the demands of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Confirming autonomy as “a right and a necessary condition for unfettered academic (and artistic) work” involves understanding that autonomy is a condition for the critical involvement of knowledge with the social and cultural contexts to which it belongs.

For this reason, we believe it is essential to enumerate the objectives and principles presented in the *Buenos Aires Declaration*⁽⁵⁾, resulting from the *Regional Colloquium on the Cartagena Declaration and Contributions for the Regional Conference on Higher Education 2018*, which was held at the Universidad Nacional de las Artes in November 2017, regarding “the recognition of the strategic role of art and culture in producing socially committed knowledge and fighting for cultural sovereignty, sustainable development and the pluri-cultural integration of regions. (For this purpose) it is vital to promote specific legitimation and evaluation matrices for the teaching and learning of and research into the arts at the higher education level”.

As pointed out at the beginning, the long-awaited hierarchical organization of artistic education at the university level has managed to fill a recognized gap, but, at the same time, has served to highlight the still marginal and secondary position that has traditionally been assigned to research into the arts.

“It is vital to shorten the distances separating the scientific, technical, humanistic, social and artistic fields, while understanding the complexity and multi-dimensional nature of problems and promoting cross-cutting views, interdisciplinary work, and comprehensive training”⁽⁶⁾. There is still much more to be done in this direction.

We had, and still have, two choices: either we try to get education and artistic research to fit the established criteria for higher education in general or we make the University Schools of Art in the region the places to develop concrete dynamics and processes, links and practices that reformulate both the stereotyped methods of the university system and the conventional production of art. An in-depth study that recognizes the tradition of concrete practices associated with the training of artists in different areas and, at the same time, the heterogeneous processes and competences encompassed by the term ‘art’ will be fundamental for enriching the debate on the role that artistic research should play in the region.

In this sense, artistic education is a complex area, and that is precisely where its interest lies; it is more of a contradictory relationship, a disjunctive synthesis, than an easily definable homogeneous field. It is that which resists all definition. Art is a practice whereby artists explore the possibility of composing a notion made up of sensations that cannot be repeated. It opposes the mere reproduction of knowledge as imposed by present day accreditation and standardization methods. Art means resistance, as it opens up the horizon of whatever is possible and puts other modes of existence to the test⁽⁷⁾.

To claim that there is an alternative concept of art implies doing away with the old dichotomy between reflective and logical knowledge and practical and technical knowledge; between objective, intelligible knowledge that can be systematized and evaluated, and the subjective mystery of sensitive and emotional knowledge. It also implies recognizing the extent to which we are indebted to the mindset that reduces artistic creation to the private sphere, to individual aptitudes and to one’s subjective expression.

It is essential for artists to be incorporated into research teams, since they are the producers of a form of knowledge that neither scientists nor technologists can produce, i.e. the production of affects and percepts (Deleuze 1983), and the creative aspect of discovery in the production of knowledge, without which there can be no innovation.

Finally, there is a need to recognize the right to art in education, and not only in the case of higher education. As art is part of the production of knowledge, there can be

5. Buenos Aires Declaration (in Spanish and Portuguese) available at: <https://www.priu.com.ar/coloquio-cres-declaracion-final>

6. CRES 2008 Final Declaration. Scientific, humanistic and artistic education and comprehensive sustainable development. Item 7.

7. See Deleuze and Guattari (1993).

no school without art. To meet the objective of a possible world that is developed, sustainable and better to live in, artistic education is fundamental as it builds citizenship while avoiding discrimination and oppression.

Artistic creation is never an individual affair. It is, above all, a social and cultural matter. Any artistic creation is always a shared creation. It is about learning to think as a community, it is the thoughts that arise on the boundaries, in that blurred area in which the affirmation of difference permits the recognition of the other as one's peer. Maybe it is that utopic dimension that we must learn to teach.

3. Interculturalism: Dialectics of a Concept

In Latin America, universities must include the concept of interculturalism in every working realm. Some of the most important subjects for this cross-cutting and epistemological inclusion arise here, and represent a challenge and a transgression in the face of a hegemonic thought system, but which emerge from the reality in which the current university system lives and is organized.

The concept of interculturalism refers to respectful, horizontal and synergic interaction between cultures. It is different to an imposed, violent and colonizing relationship. It is a concept with a political dimension that is not reduced to politics. It affirms the existence of a plurality of cultures within society, where no group is above another, and there is no reason for one culture to consider itself superior to another. The relationship between different cultures is based on equality and tends towards integration within a given territory.

There are two levels within interculturality. The first refers to recognition and respect for other people's cultures; and the second implies the use of dialogue, although this process is not exempt from conflict, as it questions some of concepts from modern politics, such as the notion of a nation state. In consequence, a process is established in which interculturality modifies the traditional meaning of social struggles. Thus the plight of women cannot only be tackled from the Marxist episteme, nor solely from that of a modern philosophy that carries with it the affirmation of nationalism. The plight of indigenous people seeks reformulation of the State, and appropriation of the territory's resources.

Each of the former aspects implies a conflict with one's equals, while at the same time creating new understandings of interculturality. One thing is to be a man among an indigenous culture, and another is to be in a

mestizo culture. Something else is to be a gay man in a Muslim world, or another in an atheist world, or to be gay and rich or gay and poor. And all this is experienced in different ways depending on whether you are male or female, or a child, an adult or elderly.

The interculturality that originated in the South is different to the multiculturalism and pluralism of Northern origin, since it not only seeks recognition from other cultures, or to stress tolerance as the main political conquest, but is necessarily centered on the construction of equalitarian policies. Multiculturalism acquires meaning in cultures that are ancestrally racist; interculturality is generated in places that have condemned thousands of cultures to marginality, even for racist reasons.

The political concretion of interculturalism is subject to several variables: affirmation of diversity, protection and strengthening of languages, new forms of political organization, legitimization of their territories, insertion of their legal systems, acceptance of their native economic systems, other forms of education, and recognition of their health practices.

A primary discourse of interculturality in Latin America and the Caribbean seeks the peaceful coexistence of cultures through the recognition of cultural diversity. Interculturality is the peaceful relationship between two or more cultures. In order to reach such a level, there is a need to overcome prejudices between superior and inferior cultures, those which are sustained on the basis of racist and unfair policies. The 'Us' is confronted in its sociology of superiority.

Interculturality appears within a dynamic, sustained and permanent process of interrelation. Power relations are not mentioned, and the affirmation of equality is not so clear. This kind of interculturality is connected to conscience, and the need for participatory processes, which are distinguished from personal efforts, is stressed. The collective effort that is required for interculturality to happen condemns, in a certain way, individual work. Collectivism, it is supposed, does not occur through individual and individualizing action. Actions coming from the individual tend to be viewed as harmful.

The notion of being uncultured does not exist in this discourse; what does exist is cultural multiplicity. Everyone is born inside a culture, and culture is a reference for identity and communication. The intercultural human being is born inside cultures, is social in its being and is related with the other and the others from before birth.

Cultures are built over time through the establishment of fair, equitable and intercultural relationships. In consequence, cultures are destroyed through colonial, violent, authoritarian and imposed relations.

Such discourse presupposes open cultures. Interculturality is not an option; it is an indispensable path towards good living and self-education. It is the way in which cultures change and are modified beyond will and the expected.

There are endogenous changes to different cultures, but most changes are produced from the outside, due to exogenous factors. One culture does not tend to change on its own; it changes due to other aspects that are external to that culture. So, interculturality is usually present throughout the process of interculturality. There is no single process of dialogue, for dialogue can involve manipulation and imposition of the strong over the weak, a situation that is not seen in such discourses.

Concerns about globalization tend to be the setting of such discourse. Globalization is identified with the phenomena of homogeneity that would destroy Southern cultures, so interculturality challenges globalization. Faced by the spread of one single culture, the answer is to endorse cultural multiplicity. Two questions arise: To what extent is globalization the imposition of not one, but of multiple cultures marked by market standards? And is cultural multiplicity antagonistic or does it support the imposition of a single cultural truth?

The idealization of culture tends to contain a vision of enclosed, complete and pure culture. However, every culture is basically multicultural, i.e. it has been formed and continues to be formed from contacts between different communities and cultures, either in a violent or voluntary way, consciously or unconsciously. Therefore, there is no pure culture. In each one we find traces of other cultures, we do not know where these features came from or why, but they are the inherent features of culture.

The idealization of culture in terms of interculturality assumes that culture in itself is good. In actual fact, our cultures and the cultures of others contain key myths for understanding ourselves, but there are other nefarious aspects to the identity-building process. All culture, including Western cultures, not only have myths, but these myths are linked to superstitions, some of them harmful and potentially dangerous for humanity. Edgar Morin (2007) says that every culture contains a mixture of superstitions, fictions, fixations, accumulated and

uncriticized knowledge, gross errors and deep truths. For interculturality, it is important not to view key knowledge as superstitions and millenary knowledge, as has been common on the part of the colonizer. But above all else, the challenge is not to admit culture without being self-critical.

Another common understanding of interculturality is the affirmation of respect for differences. Policy is the guarantee of such respect. The context behind that claim is that of internal and intercontinental migration leading cultures to feel vulnerable. The generally unwelcoming cultures of the people towards which migrants are heading are major threats to their cultures. Common attitudes of xenophobia and racism are an affront to migrant lives.

Given the impossibility of accepting the other, the interculturality of differences inspires a series of security and psychological policies. Respect for differences emphasizes the physical integrity of the foreigner. Likewise, the discourse on differences accepts that, in order to value others and the other, one must value oneself. Policies implement communication strategies to change the xenophobic stereotypes among the allegedly superior culture.

Such racism brings the need for work on self-valuation, to generate attitudes of acceptance, self-security, and optimism. It is also important to look for new connections with culture. Psychological work is aimed at the acceptance of the personal being, which should lead to the acceptance of the cultural being. As can be seen, this challenge delves further inside the exposed cultures. However, in this field the results are limited if racism increases rather than decreases.

The interculturalism of differences looks to reduce intolerance and to generate the guarantee of diversity from a culture that is respectful of others. Such a position is important and meaningful from the perspective of others that are in vulnerable situations, but at the same time, this position is worrying because it is not connected to equality policies.

Interculturalism will be built as long as we learn to respect differences; notwithstanding the fact that the best way to put these conditions into place is by having a market-centered world, so it is the market that lays the foundations of tolerance for consumerism.

There is another vision of the interculturalism of differences that is a response to a more national and

indigenous context, which demands respect for heterogeneity, a demand that is written in struggles for fair and equal relationships. Mediations of the interculturality of differences involve such indicators as language, medicine, politics and education, which in actual fact are a break from ethnocentrism and the culture of the superior-inferior.

One of the problems with the interculturalism of differences is the relationship between ethnicity and class. There is no doubt that ethnicity is involved in the formation of marginal groups, and that their status as an exploited class increases racism. The questions are: is interculturality less radical when there is separation between the notions of ethnicity and poverty? Is interculturality diluted when no attempt is made to change the unfair system?

If we separate ethnicity from class, we need to accept the risk of intercultural politics. There is no interculturality without struggles to change an unfair system. However, justice is not radical if equal relations are not taken into account. Being a woman, indigenous or colored are factors that are not unconnected to capitalist exploitation. Therefore, interculturality is the recognition of differences within the conflict, so interculturality does not happen inside conflict. Interculturality has to be political.

The other form of interculturalism considers the knowledge of original cultures in relation to that of universal cultures. Knowledge is not fragmented as it is in Western sciences, and it is deep within culture. It allows for human action. In knowledge, affectivity and reason are united. The wise hold ethical authority.

Interculturality comes to the rescue of ancient knowledge. Natural medicine, binary structures, the vigesimal and decimal counting systems, plant taxonomies, animals, biotic and abiotic beings, and thought based on ancestral views of the cosmos, are the most common lines of ancestral knowledge.

Ancestral knowledge was deemed esoteric by Western sciences. Astronomy, architecture, economics, political state administration, sailing, warfare and archaeology were hidden and, in the best of cases, turned into museum pieces. Such knowledge is now beginning to be incorporated in universal scientific knowledge, not from serious debate, but from the recognition of differences and universal tolerance.

One way to build science with indigenous people is through scientific research. This involves seeking a descriptive phase, in order to set the original knowledge in its concrete state. According to Bachelard, the concrete state is the place where the spirit is recreated with the first images of phenomena and is based on philosophical literature. The problem is when research is limited to a mere description of the phenomena, because the knowledge is not then subjected to a self-critical phase, and is validated regardless.

Intercultural knowledge policies are directed at education. There is a challenge here in relation to Western education paradigms. Observation, experimentation and deductive and analytical logic are not alien to original knowledge, but its paradigms are integral, associating the subject with the object and the context, and its causality is circular and recursive.

The introduction of original knowledge to education is not only an education issue, it is a political issue too, and it means more than intellectual curiosity. It is part of life itself.

Another way to view interculturality is through its connection to the struggles with regard to plurinationalism. A plurinational state is seen as the only guarantee of interculturality, as long as it recognizes the radical differences within societies.

Plurinationality leads interculturality into the field of rights. Without a multinational state there are no rights. Plurinationality is the regulatory force against single-nation, homogeneous and mono-cultural colonial states.

In order to guarantee interculturality, the state must be reformed. Plurinationality is not only an ethnic concept; above all it is a political one. It is a concept that contains the conditions that make an indigenous life possible.

Plurinationality is a statute of life for the indigenous peoples; and a condition that is absent from modern politics. Plurinationality does not propose territorial fragmentation, political division or the destruction of the nation state. The statute that it proposes is unity within diversity. Many nations within one state.

The discourse of plurinationality is not the same as the discourse of autonomy for oligarchic and economic groups, which go against the nation state in order to commodify life.

The opposition to this type of interculturality comes from large-scale transnational enterprises, and from

governments defending their interests under the pretext of defending the national interest.

Plurinational interculturality looks to change power relations, and to transform unfair relations. Therefore, the political strength resides in the organization of indigenous people in order for them to decide on their own destiny. It is absurd to expect indigenous peoples and nations to be submitted to the fight against poverty, economic growth policies, or to the defense of the Amazon rainforest.

Over time, relationships with indigenous people have involved making them the subjects of aid policies, which is why they want a state that is respectful of those people who want to live differently.

Plurinationality and interculturality defy liberal thought and the power structure that comes from modernity. The struggles for plurinationality reveal how the fundamental rights proclaimed by European Liberalism are violent acts of colonialism.

This kind of interculturality is the most challenging in Latin America, and it recalls a comment once made by Morin: *there are times when the impossible is the only possible*. The danger is for such discriminatory rule to remain intact within indigenous groups under the primacy of autonomy policies within the same nation.

Finally, we find the discourse of interculturality attached to the European concept of multiculturalism, which grew out of a period of profound changes, with multiple crises, including the crisis of humanity due to processes of major decomposition. Along with economic, energy, food and environmental crises, there is a crisis that leads us to ask what we understand a human being to be, and what we understand being a man or a woman to mean.

Politically, multiculturalism is a consequence of the radicalism of Democracy. It is not possible to be a democrat and a racist at the same time.

Spanish feminist philosopher Rosa Cobo says that, for Europeans of either gender, *it is difficult for us to look at the other because we have been socialized in the ideology of superiority; we live in the superior culture and believe that cultures are the others*. In other words, the main challenge faced by multiculturalism concerns the ideology of superiority on which the west has been built, and which sees the other as inferior. These 'others' go to Europe or the United States to take on roles of

servitude; they go to do what the people of the west do not want to do. It is difficult for us in the west, from our positions of privilege, to understand the others who live among 'us'.

4. Regional Development, Sustainability and Higher Education Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards the Consolidation of Meanings

Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in Latin America and The Caribbean have been constituted in the context of an oppressed, lagging, vulnerable, exploited region; development there, should it exist at all, comes in association to precariousness, and such precepts as freedom, equality and equity are peripheral elements (Sen 2000; Sen and Kliksberg 2007). In this environment, HEIs have assumed characteristics and identities that distinguish one from the other, but at the same time, unify and identify them. In a region that is blighted by the desperation and difficulty that nations must learn to deal with, HEIs offer a hint of hope, change and the chance to overcome hardship; they tend to build the new, that which is still to come, and where everything that the people yearn for converges in the hope of new interpretations, discourses, questions, fair judgment, critical and broad criteria that can achieve renewed forms of interaction and interconnection between the social, the natural, and the human, all consolidated in sustainability.

With this in mind, and considering the document that resulted from the III Regional Conference of Higher Education (CRES 2018), organized by the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and The Caribbean (IESALC), the following lines highlight the priority meanings of higher education in the region. This is no minor matter, given that higher education can only be a factor for change if it has the capacity to critically observe its function in the social framework and as long as its goals and meanings are questioned, in order for them to be consolidated (Villoro 1974).

So, today more than ever, the meanings of HEIs must be linked to regional development grounded in sustainability, understood as a paradigm and an epistemic framework that integrates and generates synergies between disciplines, to cross the borders between them, and to create interdisciplinary spaces that contribute to the design of methodologies and interpretative frameworks that can enable critical analysis and the emergence of a common discourse to study

reality in all of its different and complex forms, and to help to solve problems (Gutiérrez 2012).

The following are the future goals of higher education, which we hope will subsequently help to trigger broader analysis:

- A. *Interpretation.* The core of the identity of HEIs is that they drive meaningful contributions to the production of fresh readings of reality. And if they accomplish this, they might help to visualize and clarify complex phenomena, to bring to light that which is still hidden by tradition or subjection, to outline the incomplete and to contribute to a deeper comprehension of the socio-natural and spiritual reality.
- B. *Will for integration and legitimization.* HEIs should be defined as settings that contribute to an understanding of the region as a space where synergies are formed that, operating under the concepts of sustainable development, seek local, regional and global cooperation; brotherhood among nations, the capability to legitimize and accept otherness as part of oneself and hence consolidate commitments to the design of social projects and systems to foster diversity, plurality, justice, democracy, political rights and liberties, and for these to be extended right across the region.
- C. *To foster change as a relational process of expansion, transfer and continuity.* HEIs viewed as central elements in processes of change need to broaden their capabilities and systems to become interrelated in all settings of human interaction in order to transform relationships and unfair and unequal social and individual structures.
- D. *To make education feasible.* Contemporary HEIs consider their job to involve generating spaces of experience that can trigger substantial changes to the methods and structures for interpreting the natural, the social and the human, both by university actors and by social subjects in general. The former contains two interconnected core elements: 1) education from experience is recognized as a space that gives meaning, new meanings and attributions to things in the world and to education itself, allowing the subject to organize reality and become self-realized, situated and involved in a given space and time (Honoré, 1980); 2). The educational experience on a relational level is a continuous process in which the subject is an active participant, and even the main author of their own configuration (Foucault 2014), and that of others, which is why the meaning of education must be assumed as a configuration of sustainable

identities and communities; shifting, at least on the intellectual level, from the lugubrious notion of higher education as a factory of the neoliberal subject⁽⁸⁾.

There is no doubt that socioenvironmental dynamics configure a network of tensions between different elements: environmental, scientific, technological, methodological, epistemic, political, philosophical, social, cultural, artistic, human, ideological, popular, historical and economic, to mention only some of the strains that are different reflections of vulnerability and fragility in the region, and which call upon reality itself. In such a framework, HEIs in Latin America and the Caribbean need to take on a preponderant role, with shared commitments and major awareness of what they can contribute through analysis and intervention to the reorientation of the construction of a different world, a world that is more fertile and where the seeds of freedom⁽⁹⁾ in the light of sustainable development, flourish and irradiate ferments of change.

5. Internationalization of Solidary and Academic Networks

University internationalization is a process that started in the 1980s, stimulated by the convergence of the following trends: a common academic model throughout the whole world that came from the Medieval European university system and was transferred to the rest of the globe; a growing global academic market, for students, teachers and researchers; the use of English as the internationally accepted language for research, communication and teaching; the advance of e-learning and use of Internet and new information and communication technologies in education processes; the tendency of academic institutions to associate with institutions in other countries, the creation of external campuses and the opening of franchises resulting from commercial regulations; and the standardization of certificates, courses, credits and other methods for evaluating and measuring academic progress, due to the local dissemination of internationalized regulations (Altbach 2002; Altbach and Teichler 2001; Brunner 2009; Didriksson 2008; García Guadilla 2010; Perrotta 2016).

8. See: Laval, C. and Dardot, P. (2013). *La fábrica del sujeto neoliberal*. In C. Laval and P. Dardot (Eds.), *La nueva razón del mundo, ensayos sobre la sociedad neoliberal* (pp. 325-379). Spain: Editorial Gedisa, S. A.

9. See: Villoro, L. (1974). *La educación superior*. In L. Villoro (Eds.), *Signos políticos* (p.159). Mexico: Editorial Grijalbo.

The consideration of higher education as a market good (commercial service) shook the foundations and changed the meanings of university policies around the world and shaped a competitive or Phoenician paradigm of internationalization (Perrotta 2016a). This meant the subordinated incorporation of Latin America and The Caribbean in this process (Landinelli 2008), thus increasing the divide between institutions and the countries at the center and on the peripheries (García Guadilla 2010; Perrotta 2016a). In consequence, university internationalization rose in importance on the agenda of international organizations, and in state public policies; together with debates between academics and political actors regarding the dispute between different university systems (Del Valle, Suasnábar & Montero 2017).

The reaction to these processes was immediate, both due to the mobilization of the academic sector and higher education institutions themselves, as well as university teachers' unions, and regional student federations. In the framework of these protests and responses, a central issue for higher education in our region was the conflict between the perspectives of *public good* and *market good* (Bizzozero 2006; Verger 2006); which since 2008 has been reconfigured in terms of rights versus *commodities* (Perrotta 2008, 2016a). It is important to stress that this process in the Latin American and Caribbean region has an additional edge derived from negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) treaty of 1994 and 2005, which includes provisions for the deregulation of higher education, and which generated a transcontinental process of social upheaval (Feldfeber & Saforcada 2005).

Specifically regarding the matter of internationalization, although it is not given that name, the CEMES 1998 called for the configuration of networks as a defense strategy against the unequal distribution of global knowledge, characterizing this kind of cooperation on the principles of solidarity, mutual respect and symmetry.

The configuration of university networks enabled greater interaction among institutions and their academic communities, better use of each of their capabilities to boost individual strengths, and the establishment of new forms of integration and articulation (Zarur 2008). At the same time, these new forms of inter-university cooperation demanded the creation of synergies and complementarities, defying universities' identities (García Guadilla 2006; Krotsch 1997). Within the immediate setting of CRES 2008, international cooperation between universities was viewed as the starting point to

allow knowledge to be shared horizontally and vertically (among universities, and among less favored sectors of society), and to strengthen regional integration processes (Gazzola & Goulart Almeida, 2006).

In this context, universities need to take an international and cooperative perspective that permeates the agenda of national governments, regional organizations and higher education institutions.

The organization of knowledge production within universities

The shift towards corporate-university models has led to an increase in inequalities inside universities, generating standards that allow for cost-cutting and increased income, in many cases aimed at profit. This has led to a decline in the labor conditions and numbers of teaching and support personnel, the latter meaning cleaning, security, and transportation services. These conditions are even worse when external programs and projects, which are heavily promoted to solve funding issues, are established in order to get the university to operate like a business.

At the same time, the attack on universities from different sectors (politics, government, business, fundamentalist religious groups) that are questioning its status as a common good, critical space and place for humanist education, has been echoed internally in the form of rejection of extracurricular or 'social action' programs, the arts, humanities and social sciences, and support their de-funding and disappearance.

Hence, the already-existing inequalities between permanent and temporary faculty, between different areas of knowledge, and between different substantive activities such as teaching, research and extracurricular programs have intensified, causing internal conflicts that affect the way that resources are allocated, positions of authority are defined and the ways that different sectors compete for university funds.

As long as people in insecure jobs have no access to spaces for democratic decision inside universities, these inequalities will get nothing but worse.

Recommendations

From this perspective, universities cannot be excluded from social criticism of development systems that encourage inequality and the wellbeing of an absolute minority, and destroy the fundamental conditions for life and existence. That is why the state, from its role as guarantor of sustainable human development, must continue to demand academic integrity in the organization of universities, most especially in three strategic areas: a) respect for life and rights for life, that is, the development of alternatives for human rights as opposed to commodification, control of intimacy, individuality and dignity, the privatization of health, indiscriminate genetic and food manipulation, and neglect for the future of new generations; b) the foundations of social organization, political domains and the local, national, regional or world economies, as opposed to single-mindedness, the irreversibility of domineering and exclusionary globalization, poverty, hunger, misery, marginalization and ignorance, and the theoretical and methodological perspectives that justify them; and, c) regarding the development of alternatives for cooperation, the community, the common good, rights for all, inter and trans-culturalism, security, citizen participation, organization and representation in governments and states (Petrella 2003, UNESCO, p. 130-131).

The conditions under which this must be accomplished and the challenges implied are huge, but neither can they be addressed solely from a locally-minded and non-pragmatic perspective; nor can they be achieved, socially speaking, without *a new approach to national and regional integration agreements*, associated to the new international division of knowledge, connecting science and technology with humanities, arts and interculturality. We cannot be swayed by narrow-minded nationalism, because isolated institutions would not be able to work together to take on the great challenges of the future.

Unlike what is happening in other parts of the planet, Latin American universities build their particular past and present identity from integral institutional autonomy, a collegiate and participatory government, and have maintained a predominantly public model, with important differences between its countries, and where universities are one of the few social institutions that recurrently take a critical stance, and where both students and teachers have constantly taken action against the barbarism, injustice and excessive authoritarianism

of governments, the rich and the powerful, whether local, national or foreign. They have also stood for the defense of the public good, of liberty and equality, of human rights and even for their own existence. That is why universities should also look towards their own internal inequalities, to promote the right to dignified work and democracy throughout the academic community.

During the last two decades, public universities in the region have promoted major structural changes to their platforms for networks and associations, to their processes of regionalization and integration, to their curricula, and to their orientation towards research and scientific and technological innovation. They have also promoted excellence in the production of new knowledge, despite global indicators clearly suggesting that the region has fallen comparatively behind the rest of the world, and progress has been made in the coordination of knowledge, interculturality and the relationship between humanities and sciences.

Universities should also look towards their own internal inequalities, to promote the right to dignified work and democracy throughout the academic community

Conclusions

Synergy between the humanities and arts, science and technology is a recent academic phenomenon at universities in the region, but there is a very long tradition of creativity and social innovation in the humanities, social sciences, arts and culture where many important schools of thought have taken root and proliferated. These processes have had major social impact and worldwide recognition, especially from philosophy and artistic education. More recently, a multi and interdisciplinary process has been developed to connect the humanities, science and technology with major intercultural and sustainability content.

However, the rising tendency regarding these synergies and new processes for articulating knowledge neither represent a structural change to the region's traditional disciplinary and profession-oriented university system, nor to the higher education system as a whole, because this system continues to reproduce and rely on state resources and its relations with political power, but most of all, because there is still inequality and inequity in its structures despite the context of new cognitive and

informational configurations that are questioning and challenging the current forms of power.

There is hence a need to combat the shift towards dependence on and domination of large businesses with regard to cognitive and informational capital and genomic manipulation, together with major communication, food, transportation and finance (credit and insurance) multinationals, which relate to the debate in some academic sectors about the importance of building endogenous knowledge platforms from a relationship with different stakeholders and contexts and with the state, and which leave us in a constant state of neo-peripheral subordination (Albagli and Maciel 2011)

In some countries in the region, progress has been made in this regard, but the conflict of interests and the real power of far-right neoliberal groups, bolstered by the rising mercantilization of higher education that has been prioritized over the possibility of fostering major changes to universities to thus promote new expressions and experiences from a multiplicity of knowledge, the construction of subjects who appropriate that knowledge, and the ripping apart of scientific and technologic determinism, in order to put universities at the service of a just and fair society, from a new humanism and deep-rooted social innovation, within spaces that produce “a new commons” (Ibid, p. 130).

The challenge is to transversally link such initiatives, and for it to be the state’s duty to design a national education project that really is public and universally accessible. This is especially true in the case of Brazil, where there are still doubts in terms of the perspectives of state action, considering the forthcoming government. The responsibility of institutions and other agents in the field of higher education is, in this context, to push for these changes to happen, thus intensifying their social relevance. If this pressure is exerted together with the state in terms of public policy, then it also needs to happen in terms of human education, in shared dialogue with students about their right to a quality education, and their commitment to the construction of education as a public good.

In a broader sense, the two related practices mean the integration of science, technology, arts and innovation, because all those areas of knowledge are directly or indirectly involved. Opportunities for inclusion arise both in areas of knowledge like the humanities, and in the sciences too. In conclusion, these are innovative practices achieved through teacher training or through inclusive actions.

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