



Public debate - 21st century universities: exploring alternative futures

Open to everyone – no registration required

Friday February 19th - 20:00-22:30

Academieraadzaal Aula, Gent

Liliane Schoofs
Vice rector KUL

Rosette S'jegers
Secretary general VLIR

Koen Goethals
Academic Administrator UGent

Julie Anderson
EU policy advisor general culture and education

Jan-Frederik Abbeloos — *Moderator*
De Standaard

Tim Joosen
ACOD

Sarah Bracke
UGent — VUB

Yannis Tzaninis
Rethink UvA

Inge van der Weijden
Leiden University

Anton Froeyman
UGent – Actiegroep Hoger Onderwijs

The academic world has gone through some very significant changes in the first 15 years of the 21st century. The scale of academic research and education has increased immensely, and higher education is developing into a truly global phenomenon. Nevertheless, many issues and problems have arisen as well. Universities seem to be turning into multinationals, run by managers and guided by quantifiable targets rather than by scientific ideals. Young researchers on short-term contracts struggle to find positions, and academia is haunted by tales of sexism, fraud and mental health problems.

The public debate is the final event of a two-day doctoral school workshop and, at the same time, an open discussion where we try to connect some of the issues that were raised in the workshop with a wider academic and professional audience.

21st century universities: exploring alternative futures

Public debate

Friday February 19th, 20:00 - 22:30, Academieraadzaal Aula, Volderstraat 9, Gent
no registration required

What should universities look like in the future? How do we balance research, education and societal service in terms of budget, workload, evaluation criteria, career opportunities, ...? What options does academia have for financialisation in times of increasing governmental budget cuts? We welcome your questions and suggestions during a highly interactive debate with key Flemish policy makers and alternative voices from within academia and society. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to exchange ideas and let your voice be heard.

What does it mean to supervise the researchers of the 21st century?

Lunch meeting with professors

Friday February 19th, 12:30 - 14:30, meeting room John Vincke, Kortemeer 5, Gent
registration required - please confirm your attendance to Koenraad.bogaert@ugent.be

During this lunch meeting, professors/promotors will have the opportunity to formulate the most pressing concerns surrounding the present status of the academic world. The results of this meeting will then be presented at the debate where several key players within Flemish Higher Education will be presented with your concerns and/or proposals, and will be asked to reply. Hence, this is a unique opportunity to confront higher education policy makers with the issues and concerns of academic work floor.

What does it mean to be a researcher in 21st century academia?

Two-day workshop for PhD students

Thursday February 18th, 10:00 - 17:30, Dijezaal Bethlehem M00.A1, Schapenstraat 34, Leuven & Friday February 19th, 15:00 - 18:00, meeting room John Vincke, Kortemeer 5, Gent
registration required - info & registration - <https://tokyoap2.ugent.be/eventManager/events/whatdoesitmean>

The two-day doctoral school workshop specifically targets PhD students. We aim to create awareness and make PhD students more conscious of the context they find themselves in, and encourage them to take an active role in the development of 21st century academia. The workshop consists of three sessions (an introductory session, a debate and a brainstorm session on actions and solutions). In the public debate, the discussants will be confronted with the proposals you have developed during the course of the past two days.



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