



The Role of Universities in Addressing Societal Challenges and Fostering Democracy:

Inclusion, Migration, and Education for Citizenship

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference – March 25-26, 2021

The public and democratic role of universities has become an increasingly relevant topic in recent years in light of social, political and economic developments, as well as changes in media and communication. At the same time, democratic societies in Europe are paying increasing attention to the mobilities of individuals within and outside the boundaries of their nation-states. While we observe intensified securitization and the rise of anti-immigration sentiment in Europe, civic movements of resistance also flourish across the continent. With this conference, we aim to steer the discourse towards more constructive and rational discussions on migration and higher education in a healthy democracy.

This event seeks to bring together papers that address these and other conceptual and practical concerns and that develop new critical understandings of the role of universities in fostering democracy and addressing migration and other societal changes; that aim to reach a broader dialogue between university and multicultural society; and that establish discussions on migration and mobilities between diverse communities in academia and the public sector. **We therefore welcome papers that open the boundaries of thinking about migration, democracy and the role of universities and include but are not limited to the following themes:**

- Civic responsibility of universities and institutions
- Normative conceptions of universities and democracy
- Democracy and educational processes at the university
- Challenges to the university in contemporary democracies
- Universities and neoliberalism
- Citizenship and immigration
- Widening participation and transnational students
- Universities, knowledge and democracy in a time of rising populism
- Universities and social disruptions: the COVID-19 pandemic

- Integration, adult education and immigrants' acquisition of the host country language
- Identities and communities
- Relationships between migrants and their host countries
- Migration in small states and rural areas
- Migration and multiculturalism
- Socio-economic policies
- Migration and activism
- Educational practices



Confirmed: keynote speakers:

- **Kristín Loftsdóttir**, Professor in Anthropology, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics, University of Iceland.
- **Thaddeus Metz**, Professor of Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, University of Pretoria.

The conference is organized within the frame of the following research projects: [Inclusive Societies? The integration of Immigrants in Iceland](#), led by Markus Meckl and Unnur Dís Skaptadóttir, [Universities and Democracy: A critical analysis of the civic role and function of universities in a democracy](#), led by Anna Ólafsdóttir and Sigurður Kristinsson, [REMIX: The university as an advocate for responsible education about migration in Europe](#), and [APELE: Accreditation of prior experiential learning in European Universities](#), led by Markus Meckl.

Abstracts submitted and accepted for the 2020 conference:

Please note, that the revision of the abstracts that have been accepted for the initial conference dates (April 2-3, 2020) **is not required**.

Participants are kindly asked to contact **Iwona Szelewa**, iwona@unak.is regarding their attendance in the 2021 conference by choosing one of the following options:

- Retaining their initially submitted abstracts with no changes
- Resubmitting updated versions
- Submitting new abstracts
- Withdrawing their participation

The deadline for submitting revised or new abstracts is December 18, 2020

New abstracts:

Prospective participants are asked to send their abstracts to **Iwona Szelewa**, iwona@unak.is. A proposal for panel sessions with abstracts of the included papers is also welcome.

The deadline for submission is December 18, 2020. An abstract must not exceed 250 words excluding the following information:

1. Author(s) name(s)
2. Institutional affiliation
3. Email address(es)
4. Paper title
5. Topics of interest (max. 3)

Admission and registration

The conference will take place online and will be free of charge for the registered participants.

Participants, who registered for the 2020 conference and have not yet requested a refund for the registration fee, are asked to contact **Iwona Szelewa**, iwona@unak.is

Revision of all the new and re-submitted abstracts will be completed by the end of January 2021 and the deadline for registration is **February 20, 2021**.

Details about registration will be included in your acceptance notification email.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT **Iwona Szelewa, iwona@unak.is**
