

IAU Horizons: Call for Papers

The University: Shaping Values and Shaped by Values

In today's dynamic, complex, and ever-evolving global landscape, universities often find themselves on the front lines of social tension, economic and environmental uncertainty, and political change. These challenges transcend geographical boundaries, impacting universities worldwide irrespective of their size, traditions, cultures, or operational styles. Against this backdrop, this issue of IAU Horizons wishes to investigate the pivotal role of values, exploring both the ways that universities shape the values of their students and the values that universities themselves rely on for guidance in their decision-making, ethical conduct, strategic outlook and meaningful engagement.

From a social and moral perspective, academic leadership is under growing pressure to respond to issues of equity, equality, and access. Institutions and their leaders are expected to contribute to the establishment of just and sustainable societies.

In epistemic terms, universities grapple with mounting skepticism, which, compounded by the rise of populist, autocratic, and nationalist policies, seeks to undermine the legitimacy and relevance of higher education as trusted and autonomous places of knowledge, research, education, and service. Are the values that have sustained higher education over the past century still relevant? What are the values that universities need to embrace?

Simultaneously, rapid technological advancements, particularly in generative artificial intelligence, exert profound influence on education, research, and collaboration, presenting unprecedented opportunities and daunting challenges across all disciplines.

Politically, higher education finds itself entwined in the intricate and unstable dynamics of national and international politics. Institutions are compelled to address complex questions related to identity, ethics, and civic responsibility, all while contending with concerns about democratic institutions, human dignity, and peace.

These changes and uncertainties cast a bright light on what values universities should instill in their institution and teach their students, as well as how they should teach them.

This issue of IAU Horizons invites contributions that discuss the values that are needed to address the great challenges of our time. It also invites reflection on whether, amid our rich and diverse set of cultures and traditions, higher education institutions around the world share a set of distinct values? What will be the future of traditional academic values, such as autonomy, academic freedom, and research integrity? What role do values play in the social trust accorded to universities?

To discuss these important questions, the IAU calls for thought pieces of a maximum 800 words.

[Please submit a proposed abstract by 1 June 2024](#)

The deadline for submission of the full opinion piece is 1 July 2024.

For more information or questions, please contact: [Andreas Corcoran](#) and [Trine Jensen](#).