

Special Issue: Alternative Forms of Organizing Academic Work in Universities

Call for papers for: Learning and Teaching: The International Journal of Higher Education in the Social Sciences (LATISS)

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Much has changed concerning the organization of academic labour. Following the neo-liberalist idea of a smaller state and more market in conjunction with New Public Management ideology, universities are increasingly managed along the lines of marketization, hierarchizing, measurement and control. Most of the academic discussion centres around the impact of neo-liberal HE politics and managerial approaches on the organization of academic work and reflects the various, often problematic effects for the academics, universities and society. With this Special Issue we do not, however, seek further analysis of how academic work has changed. Instead, we ask: "Where do we go from here?"

We are convinced that the world of contemporary universities, and with it, academic work, could be otherwise. We would like to specifically invite empirical contributions to bolster the conviction (and the evidence) that there are alternative ways of organizing academic work. We look for manuscripts that address the various ways - small or big, short-term or long-term, individual or collective – to push back the corruption of academia through neo-liberalism and managerialism. We particularly invite submissions that discuss **practical examples** of how to organize academic work differently, thereby remedying some of the deleterious effects of the managerial university. We are seeking evidence and constructive suggestions in a further attempt to pave the way for an alternative world of work in academia.

We are interested in, but not limited to, questions such as:

- What alternative forms of governing the university exist that include multiple stakeholders? How can academics, administrators, technical staff but also students establish a system that enables them to govern their institution jointly? How could 'society' participate in this, and how could such participation reflect the multiplicity inherent in societies and universities?
- Which forms / structures are suited for managing academic work as alternatives to the managerial university? Why? Are such forms sustainable in a system erected on the pillars of formal hierarchy and managerial control?
- How can we arrive at a balanced relationship between professional academic labour, and administrative and managerial labour, where one does not dominate the other?
- What alternative forms of institutional leadership in universities do exist, and how can they become realized? Under what conditions does institutional leadership in academia succeed or fail? Which criteria determine success or failure?

- What are the potentials for turning universities into more co-operative forms that promote democracy, autonomy, independence and equality for the academic worker? What empirical examples exist and what are the experiences from these cases?
- How does academic work look and feel like in the realm of the co-operative university / co-operative college? How is academic work in such a setting different from or similar to working in a managerial university?
- How can we organize university teaching differently, such as to push back notions of consumerism and a narrow focus on employability?
- Can academic activism constitute a form of establishing alternatives within and beyond organizations? Which forms could such activism take?

If you are interested in contributing to the special issue, please submit an extended abstract of 1000-2000 words no later than **September 30th 2021**.

Full papers must be submitted by **January 31st 2022**. All contributions will be subject to a 'double-anonymous review'.

All submissions and correspondence should be addressed electronically to Mette Lund Kristensen (mlk@sam.sdu.dk). Please state 'Alternative Forms of Organizing Academic Work in Universities' in the subject line.

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