



RESEARCH CONFERENCES

ESF-LiU Conference

Higher Education and Social Change at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century

Vadstena Klosterhotell, Vadstena • Sweden
15-19 September 2007

Chair: **John Brennan**, The Open University, London, UK

Vice-Chair: **Manfred Prenzel**, Leibniz Institute for Science Education, DE

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Preliminary Programme

Higher education institutions are currently being subjected to a variety of pressures that seek, primarily, to enhance higher education's contribution to the successful creation of so-called 'knowledge economies', together with, and receiving only slightly less emphasis, the achievement of greater equity and social justice. These pressures have led to a differentiation between 'elite' and 'mass' functions, to changing and differentiated notions of 'graduateness' and 'expertise', to changing relationships between research and teaching functions, to a shifting balance between pre-career and 'lifelong' learning, and to changing relationships between higher education institutions and the communities they serve - locally, nationally and internationally. Above all, these pressures have challenged traditional structures and cultures of governance and steering of higher education systems and institutions. These represent the issues and themes that will be addressed during the conference, informed by the reports generated by the ESF Forward Look on Higher Education.

ESF Research Conferences provide the opportunity for the world's leading scientists and other participants, including young researchers, to meet informally for discussions at the highest level on the most recent developments in their fields of research. They act as a catalyst for creating new synergistic contacts throughout Europe and the rest of the world. This conference will be of interest to academic and policy researchers in the field of higher education and to researchers in other relevant social science fields, e.g. science policy, regional development, governance, social equity.

The conference will take place at Vadstena Klosterhotel, located in a lovely natural setting on the shores of beautiful lake Vättern, offering comfortable accommodation in a historic environment. During the Middle Ages, Vadstena was the location of a catholic monastery for monks and nuns of the Birgittine order and nowadays the conference center and hotel is largely located in the same medieval buildings that were once the monastery.

Invited Speakers will include (list to be completed)

- **John Brennan**
The Open University, London, UK
- **David Dill**
University of North Carolina, US
- **Jurgen Enders**
University of Twente, NL
- **Steve Fuller**
University of Warwick, UK
- **Christine Musselin**
Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, FR
- **Rajani Naidoo**
University of Bath, UK
- **Mala Singh**
Council of Higher Education, Pretoria, ZA
- **Ulrich Teichler**
Universität Kassel, DE
- **Jussi Valimaa**
Institute for Educational Research, FI