

# Resilience, flexibility, and normativity: rethinking the role of the Humanities in the economy

12 January 2023



00:48:14 Simon Marginson: Colleagues it is time to bring forward your questions and statements in the Chat! Join the Q&A which will begin soon

00:56:19 Simon Marginson: Questions, questions, questions please

00:56:26 Jan McArthur: Underpinning this excellent analysis are the twin problems of disarticulating the individual from society and the economic realm from the social realm. And disarticulated both from the historical. And allowing the 'economic' to be shaped solely through the perspective of the rich and powerful. Thanks so much James. We need to hear this more.

00:57:07 Elisa Brewis: It seems like you are arguing for a relational approach - instead of economic agents, social agents? instead of purposeful economy, purposeful society?

00:58:18 Akiyoshi Yonezawa: Could you elaborate more on how you view the impact of digitalization and evolution in AIs on the values and justification of arts and humanities?

00:59:20 Diana Laurillard: Excellent, thank you. Very important to focus on meaning and purpose, but there is no ethical content to that. It would apply equally to the CEOs of capitalism (who increased their salaries by 40% last year). Humanities graduates are capable of valuing the social/cultural impact of their work. How would you define what is distinctive about the value of such graduates?

01:00:32 Elisa Brewis: I've researched other country contexts without a strong liberal political and economic tradition (Indonesia, Finland), and there is a strong societal acknowledgement and appreciation for the A&H. In these cases, indigenous philosophies and state-society relations are one thing enabling the positive narrative of A&H. where might we find this narrative (who will tell the story and who will listen?) in the English/UK context?

01:00:44 Nitya Nanda Timsina: Not trying to learn from practices from non-Western horizon of time now manifests in this dangerous modes of being in the world. Economics is the number one problem to climate change and societal upheavals today, the Western scientists do not want to talk about. Sanskrit and Buddhist education tradition preach just the opposite of what is now preached by Western universities.

01:01:46 Ka Ho Mok: A thought provocative talk, congratulations James. The key challenge for us is how to engage different stakeholders in adopting the narrative (s) that

you have presented in this webinar. As world leaders are becoming far more instrumental for economic returns, how could we convince them to buy in the narratives you presented?

01:03:18 Nitya Nanda Timsina: The root of the problem is Aristotle said so it is true! Aristotle said all human desires must be satisfied. This took the shape of the science of economics. In Buddhism, desire is the very cause of suffering. But who will want to hear Buddha today?

01:04:01 Connor Mckenzie: To what extent do the questions now asked as part of the GO survey fit with this focus on meaning and purpose of study/work? This is all very interesting, but how do you articulate this in a way that is persuasive to the Treasury or others who make decisions on spending on HE, and by extension level into Arts & humanities

01:07:30 Ronald Barnett: Such a valuable offering, James. You mention 'reflexivity' but rather seemed to locate it in relation to individuals. Isn't a valuable role of the humanities that they enhance societal reflexivity? Ron Barnett

01:07:44 Charito Pizarro: You're right. Narrative is the key. That's why the narrative has to be changed. That is, the narrative on sustainability shouldn't focus on the economic purpose. It has to shift to, as you mentioned, life's purpose which is fulfillment.

01:08:22 David Mills: Great paper James. Don't all our graduates need narrative skills to craft successful relationships with/in /for work. Is the argument then that without A and H , none of our students would be helped to develop these skills?

01:09:31 Elisa Brewis: Apologies, I have no video and audio is poor. Could you please relay my message to James as/when you see fit, grouped with another question perhaps. Thank you James and also Ka Ho for starting this webinar series!

01:09:59 Nitya Nanda Timsina: thanks to Ja,

01:11:43 CGHE Webinars: Thank you for joining us today. A recording of this session will be posted on the CGHE site: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/resilience-flexibility-and-normativity-rethinking-the-role-of-the-humanities-in-the-economy/>

01:11:55 CGHE Webinars: Our next webinar, 'Integrating Liberal Arts and Professional Education', will take place on Tuesday from 2pm (UK). You can register here: <https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJUtf-yopzkoHNdu69rUsZ-aDIKftcLm8Cic>

01:12:24 Marta Kozłowska: Excellent - thank you very much, James. Much of what you've said ties neatly also with findings from psychology around purpose and meaning as central integrative human motivations. Curious how best to position our reflections here among predominantly neoliberal attitudes still on the increase within the HE?

01:13:50 Elisa Brewis: Diane's question and comment is very on point - especially given that the dominant narrative is the economic, individualised mantra of personal material

wealth. Similar critiques have been laid at transferable skills, or the overemphasis of school curriculum on skills without being linked to substance or concrete values

01:15:41 Marta Kozłowska: A brilliant point to end on!

01:16:01 Türker Kurt: Thank you for great presentation. My question is when we accept that it is not possible to explain human behavior and therefore the economy with a completely rational approach, does the aim of H&A in universities evolve to nurture the irrational side of this limited rational person, as revealed in the theory of limited rationality? If so, is the renewing aim of H&E to fill the gap by educating the non-economic aspects of human beings in certain subjects for the sustainability of the current economic purpose? Does this perspective also offer sufficient room for H&A or, more broadly, the university?

01:16:21 Jan McArthur: Thanks James. I hurried my question and that is exactly what I meant. That we have an overly narrow view of the economic realm and if we have one that is not disarticulated from the social and historical and not from the perspective of only the powerful in the economy. I am a strong proponent of the economic realm through this other lens.

01:17:08 Amardeep Kumar: Thank you James for great presentation!

01:17:15 Victorița Trif: Thank you!

01:17:30 Ka Ho Mok: Thanks James

01:20:06 Victorița Trif: The question of Diana is excellent!

01:21:14 Akiyoshi Yonezawa: Thank you, James!

01:23:33 Marta Kozłowska: Thank you - a brilliant webinar.

01:24:05 Jocelyn Krauss: Thank you! So much content to mull over!

01:24:09 Lara Karassellos: Thank you!

01:24:20 Elisa Brewis: Thank you James for the presentation today - lots of useful references and ideas. Thank you to Professor Ka Ho Mok and James Robson for organising this series!

01:24:30 Beatrice Zuaro: Thank you for this, a breath of fresh air

01:24:38 Connor Mckenzie: thanks for a really interesting webinar

01:24:38 Monika Jaiswal-Oliver: Thank you James for this topic

01:24:48 Gracious Masule: Thank you very much for the presentation. Very important

01:24:52 Xin QIU: Thanks James !