

CGHE 2020 Annual Conference

webinar panel: Higher education and sustainability, 3 September 2020



00:49:35 Jos Boys: Robin - could we have the reference for the paper you quoted from, thanks

00:50:50 CGHE Webinars: Hello everyone, please post your questions here and you will have the opportunity to ask them at the end of the presentations.

00:54:22 Inga Belousa: Thank you, Robin! Very pointed arguments. I would be really glad to go through the text of your presentation once more to get a deeper perspective. Could you share it, please?

00:55:33 Robin Shields: Here's the link for "Scientists warning on Affluence" by Wiedman et al <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16941-y>

00:55:49 Robin Shields: Thanks Inga, yes I will share my notes!

00:55:56 Mark Hertlein: Thanks Robin

00:56:02 Anwar Rumjaun: We are listening to concrete examples of sustainability within HE. Taking from a broader perspective how can HEIs embed sustainability in its "DNA"? Another line of thinking can the COVID19 or the Black Lives matter can act as "promoters" for embedding sustainability within HEIs policies and practices?

00:56:18 Mukirae Njihia: Mine not a question but a comment. There is a need to step up capacity building of members of faculty on sustainability (Education for Sustainable Development) to enable them integrate it in their diverse fields.

00:56:26 Zachery Spire: Much has been raised, especially in light of current events, about the importance/value of the physical environment of universities. A number of tensions have been raised, including the energy consumption and carbon emissions production resulting from operating the estates of our institutions. Regarding sustainability, can colleagues comment on their perspectives on the sustainability of university physical environments or the tradeoffs and challenges of keeping a social cohesion when we cannot be in our physical spaces.

00:56:36 Amy Campbell: As a group of students representing the environmental society of Durham University (UK)- in terms of reforming the academic curriculum to include sustainability, would you say there is now significant mandate to include sustainability in all academic subjects?

00:58:16 Emiliano Bosio: University education should offer knowledge and values to understand the self and the external world in critical ways beyond neoliberal logic. I ask, do universities offer encouragement to students to create pathways towards being civically and socially responsible and contributing to the public life of an increasingly interconnected society, or are they promoting individual private benefit, compliance, selfishness and consumerism?

00:58:24 Tristan McCowan: Thanks for the questions, keep these coming in.

00:58:39 Tristan McCowan: First up: Anwar

00:58:52 Tristan McCowan: 2 - Zachery

00:59:00 Tristan McCowan: 3. Amy

00:59:33 Monty King: Thanks to all the speakers. I wanted to ask Jackline about the use of ICTs to access sustainable development education in Africa. Did students use university computers or did they use their own devices, for example internet-enabled mobile phones?

01:02:32 Clare Bentall: Universities like UCL have strategies around sustainability, which include things like carbon neutral targets (though student travel may not to be included), projects related to the estate procurement etc and work on sustainable literacy - ie embedding teaching of sustainability within the work of the university. There are also attempts to have no fly options for travel, virtual conferences etc which we have shown is possible during lockdown. Whether these are enough or are just a way of minimising the negative effects for climate change of running a university is obviously a challenge posed by Robin's presentation.

01:02:56 Kathy Wabnitz: Being a member of the global network of planetary health campus ambassadors of the Planetary Health Alliance, I would like to share this call to action with the audience which reflects what has been said.
<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196%2820%2930142-X/fulltext> I would confidently say that worldwide both staff and students as individuals are ready for change - the question is, how can we change the inherent structural flaws (being funded by non-divested money as has been mentioned is just one example) whilst continuing to run societies? Coming from a medical background, I can compare the challenge we are facing to changing all parts of a life-support machine on an ICU (with Earth being the patient) whilst the patient is still in full need of these machines. How can we change our economic system on the go without causing a global shutdown and doing so quickly enough to avert ecological and social tipping points? What role can universities play in this?

01:05:27 Fiona Ross: Yesterday I participated in a university governors away day, which focused on interconnectivities between sustainability, equality and wellbeing. The discussion was with senior managers as well as student union. I agree with Hilligie van t land that students/youth movement should/could drive the change within universities. Could she say more about where this works well and what changed on a systems level?

01:06:14 Wilson Mutuma: I think it is the high time Universities especially in Africa built tangible partnerships and collaborations with communities in fighting climate change. It is unfortunate that these initiatives are minimal yet one of the key functions of universities is community service.

01:06:56 Tristan McCowan: 4. Emiliano

01:06:59 Tristan McCowan: 5. Monty

01:08:28 Tristan McCowan: 6. Kathy

01:09:00 Tristan McCowan: 7. Fiona

01:09:10 Kathy Wabnitz: Hillihje that sounds interesting - can you share that resource?

01:11:56 Diana Laurillard: One obvious way to mitigate the huge carbon footprint of international students travelling to study, would be to plan for more 'hybrid' courses, e.g. one year on campus, 2 years studying from their own country. This is not easy but we are rapidly learning how to do online learning, so in time it would be a feasible positive contribution, and also more inclusive for students who cannot afford to be in the UK for the whole time. Would this be a significant enough shift to be worth the trouble?

01:16:34 CGHE Webinars: Thanks for attending today everyone. A recording of this webinar will be available here tomorrow morning:

<https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-annual-conference/cghe-2020-annual-conference-webinar-panel-higher-education-and-sustainability/>

01:17:13 Robin Shields: Inga - here are the notes I read from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/dlbeeq7m8o2gt4z/CGHE%20Seminar%20Notes.docx?dl=0>

01:18:20 CGHE Webinars: Our next webinar will be on Tuesday and it's the launch of the CGHE book, with a book discount for attendees! Register here:

<https://www.researchcghe.org/events/book-launch/cghe-book-launch-changing-higher-education-for-a-changing-world-35-book-discount-for-attendees/>

01:18:54 Florence Itegi: what core values should universities inculcate in students and how Florence in Kenya

01:19:11 Simon Smith:

According to the People & Planet University League

(<https://peopleandplanet.org/university-league>), a large number of UK HEIs still fail to employ and embed (sufficient numbers of) staff in dedicated sustainability roles. How can sustainability practices, including the embedding of the SDGs in curricula, be achieved if HEI leaders are not investing in staff in these roles?

01:19:59 Diana Laurillard: Great session from all speakers, thank you. Could speakers provide links to papers on this? Sorry I have to leave so promptly.

01:20:34 Robin Shields: I posted my notes above, it has links to some relevant papers

01:20:52 Cristina Carvalho: Really nice speakers! Thank you all and Tristan!

01:20:54 Simon Marginson: Fabulous webinar, thank you Tristan and thank you to three great speakers

01:21:28 Nicole Blum: Yes, many thanks to all. Really enjoyed this session!

01:22:44 Kathy Wabnitz: seconded Fiona

01:23:11 JIGYASA GUPTA: Thank you so much to all the speakers and Tristan McCowan sir!

01:24:06 Jing LIU: Thank you for everyone! A fantastic discussion and presentations! It would be great if you would involve more voices from Asia in terms of higher education for sustainability. Many universities in Japan are taking various interesting initiatives of promoting SDG 4.7 which is related to education for sustainable development. let's have more exchange!

01:24:55 Florence Itegi: very insightful session thanks to all the speakers

01:25:32 Amardeep kumar: Thank you everyone.

01:25:50 Kathy Wabnitz: Could you send around a summary of the networks and individuals that have been mentioned? I think one of the problems is that we are not connected enough and there are many pockets of activity worldwide but obviously not yet enough concerted action and calls to action.

01:26:03 Kathy Wabnitz: and yes!! It's not just on students to demand change!!!

01:26:03 Godwin Opinde: Insightful session. Thanks you all

01:26:08 Edward Mboyonga: Next time you can do well to include one student to offer their views. They can tell their story well

01:26:15 Antony Vallyon: Many thanks to the chair and speakers for their insights, and links to dropbox and websites

01:26:20 Linh Nguyen: Thank you Tristan for hosting the webinar today. Many thanks Jackline, Robin and Hilligje for your great insights and strong agenda for sustainability. Thank you all for sharing your thoughts. I'm so glad that the CGHE webinars have resumed after the semester break and appreciate our sustainable intellectual dialogues here.

01:26:35 Adinda van Gaalen: Thank you for these presentations and discussions!

01:26:38 Kathy Wabnitz: We are equally constrained by the systemic shortcomings that were mentioned so the change and the calls for action and crucially, the action has to emerge on alle levels

01:27:01 Fiona Ross: Thank you very interesting

01:27:03 Monty King: Thanks everyone, really informative session

01:27:12 Rodolfo Benites: Excellent discussion! Many thanks to the chair and all the speakers.

01:27:30 Neide Mangeia: Thank you for this excellent discussion

01:27:31 Maria José Hötzel: Great as usual!

01:27:33 Mario Azevedo: Many thanks! Excellent presentations!

01:27:35 Holly Smith: Thanks!

01:27:35 Eloise Jenninger: Thank you !

01:27:37 Simon Smith: Great webinar. Many thanks, all.

01:27:38 Teresa Tam: Thank you!!!

01:27:43 Clare Bentall: Thanks

01:27:43 Adinda van Gaalen: Please also note this network: Climate Action Network for International Educators <https://www.can-ie.org/>

01:27:46 Tatiana Orlova: Thanks!

01:27:48 Robin Shields: Thanks everyone1

01:27:56 Jos Boys: Thanks

01:28:02 Rodolfo Cabral: Thank you!

01:28:17 Dr. Felicita Njuguna: Thank you

01:28:37 Ali Ahamede Puna Atumane: Thank you very much for the good discusion

01:29:03 Winniejoy Gatwiri: Great webinar. Thank you.

01:29:03 Tristan McCowan: Thank you everyone for your participation

01:29:22 CGHE Webinars: Thanks everyone. As Tristan mentioned, this chat function transcript will be available on the CGHE website tomorrow so you can find any sources mentioned here.

01:29:37 Tristan McCowan: If you're interested in the Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate project, here's the website: <https://www.climate-uni.com/>

01:30:05 CGHE Webinars: Closing off the webinar shortly, thanks for attending.