Countering post-truth and post-trust attitudes through online and offline pedagogy

Sir John Daniel & Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić
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Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić

Sir John Daniel

THE ONLINE, OPEN AND FLEXIBLE HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

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25-27 OCTOBER 2017

HOSTED BY THE OPEN UNIVERSITY IN MILTON KEYNES (UK)
post-truth

TRUST

FACTS
The Central European University: What future?
The European University – St. Petersburg
DISCOUNT

EXPERT ADVICE
John Judis

The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics

John B. Judis
The Left vs. Right Political Spectrum

Left Wing
- Anarchism
- Communism
- Socialism
- Liberalism

Right Wing
- Conservatism
- Monarchism
- Nazism
- Fascism

OPEN
CLOSED
GOAL 4 – TARGET 3

“By 2030, ensure equal access for all to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education including university education”
We have to create many more arenas for debate – arenas that are open and inclusive so as to give a voice to those who feel left behind too.

Universities should be trust-building as well as truth-seeking.
Online Learning
“In this era of post-truth politics, it is easy to cherry-pick data and come to whatever conclusion you desire"
The US no longer figures in the 2016 list of (19) ‘full democracies’. It is now a ‘flawed democracy’ EIU
‘the economic, social and cultural success of nations relates directly the trust that their people have in each other and in their institutions’
‘strangers learned to trust one another when signing contracts, allowing them to do deals outside the circles of family, tribal or in-group kinship’
POPULISM

- nostalgia for the past
- post-truth rhetoric,
- lack of trust in experts and institutions
- desire to divide
- hostility to anything elite
It is NOT:

- Socialist
- Social democratic
- Liberal, or
- Progressive

Politics
It is NOT:

Conservative (either authoritarian or in defence of the business classes)

Politics

Rightwing Populism

ELITE

MAJORITY

MINORITY
Ignatieff

Orban
Sir Ivan Rogers

“I hope you will continue to challenge ill-founded arguments and muddled thinking and that you will never be afraid to speak the truth to those in power.”
higher education is grounded in a belief in progress
Wish we could turn back time
to the good old days
Franklin Pierce Adams (1861-1960)

“Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory”
Ten Reasons to Look Forward to the Future

- Food
- Sanitation
- Life expectancy
- Poverty
- Violence
- The environment
- Literacy
- Freedom
- Equality
- The next generation
The Good Old Days ARE NOW!
GOAL 4 – TARGET 3

“By 2030, ensure equal access for all to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education including university education”
“an attitude of systematic scepticism”
Higher education, in and of itself, acts as an antidote to post-truth and post-trust thinking.
‘People are generally better persuaded by the reasons they have themselves discovered than by those which come into the mind of others’

Blaise Pascal
‘People are generally better persuaded by the reasons they have themselves discovered than by those which come into the mind of others’

Blaise Pascal

‘When we wish to correct with advantage, and to show another that he errs, we must notice from what side he views the matter, for on that side it is usually true, and admit that truth to him, but reveal to him the side on which it is false. He is satisfied with that, for he sees that he was not mistaken, and that he only failed to see all sides…’
Vancouver
Open as to:

- People
- Places
- Methods
- Ideas
Technology is the answer!

(What was the question?)
‘a social learning environment at its heart’
ONLINE COURSE

Taoism and Western Culture

Learn the fundamentals of Taoism and how to apply it with this free online course.
‘systematic scepticism’

“After doing a degree at The Open University I can’t see fewer than six sides to any question”
THANK YOU

Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić

Sir John Daniel

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