

"Shaping the future of higher education. Challenges and perspectives of today's university education" Lecture Series at Alanus University 2014-2015

### **The 'whether' and 'how' of reshaping the University – a discourse on the role of Higher Education today**

"While the universe celebrates itself in every mode of being, the human might be identified as that being in whom the universe celebrates itself... in a special mode of conscious self-awareness."  
(Berry, 1999)

The question of University education – and *whether* or *how* this may be re-shaped – fosters a set of immediate questions:

Is the traditional University today in danger of sustaining an intellectual disorientation of the Mind (Reason, 2007) or have we simply misunderstood the modern purpose of its function? Do we need to rethink the *role* of the University in our society, or do we need to re-think *the University itself* in its context of contemporary culture?

What motivates us to study in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? Looking back, it would seem that the goal and driver of education metamorphosed from the original idea of *learning for learning's sake* (the antiquity) to *learning for God's sake* (the middle ages), and now perhaps the modern idea of *learning for earning's sake* has started to inform the scope and reach of the modern University.

In this lecture, we will look at what, if anything, the reshaping of higher education may involve. We will go back to the original idea of the University (*learning for learning's sake*) and explore what this intention and goal of education brought to bare on society then and what this approach may look like in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Charlotte von Bülow** is the Founder and Chief Executive of Crossfields Institute. From the inception of the Institute in 2007, Charlotte von Bülow has worked with its growing teams to promote and develop collaborative educational action research, involving local, national and international partner organisations and stakeholders. Since moving from Denmark to the UK in 1999, Charlotte worked within the UK further and higher education sector where she specialised in qualifications development, quality assurance systems and accreditation solutions. As a Quality Assurance and Accreditation Officer, Educational Consultant and University Administrator, she specialised in UK and EU regulations and standards for further and higher education. Before graduating with a Masters of Education (RSUC, grad. 2012), Charlotte studied Leadership and Management (EPOC, grad. 2008), Philosophy of Mind (OU, grad. 2004) as well as Foundation Studies in Counselling and Psychotherapy (BCPC, grad. 2001). She is currently working on her PhD in Educational Leadership with the Department of Business and Law, University of the West of England. In the last six years, Charlotte has dedicated her charitable work to supporting environmental and social innovation. She is the Chair of the Demeter Certification Board UK and her Trusteeships since 2008 include the Living Earth Land Trust (charity no. 1139874), the Biodynamic Association (charity no. 269036) and Shire Training Workshops Limited (charity no. 285834). Charlotte is also a founding member of the Biodynamic Association Board of Studies.

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## **Works Cited**

Berry, T. (1999). *The Great Work: Our way into the future*. New York: Bell Tower.

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