



Academia Europaea – Wenner-Gren Foundations Conference

“The Formative Years of Scholars”

Haga Forum, Stockholm, Sweden

Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th November 2005

The theme of the 2005 Conference

Experts agree that the career stages of scholars between the first degree and the appointment for a professorship or similar senior research position has undergone profound changes in the recent past and is likely to experience further changes in the future. Issues frequently mentioned in Europe are:

- a substantial increase of the number of doctor candidates and doctor degrees and, related to it, a substantial growth of employment of PhD outside the higher education and research sector proper,
- a growing systematisation and institutionalisation of doctoral studies in graduate school or other arrangements, and, in this framework, changing forms of learning, supervision, links with other junior researchers,
- a continued trend towards specialisation in research which changes the function of a dissertation or subsequent pieces of research for the development of scholars,
- increasing risks and instabilities of junior academic careers, among others the emerge of a post-doctoral stage with dynamics of its own, and a declining attractiveness of academic careers at least in select areas,
- often a high selectivity of academic careers mixed with shortages of senior academic positions in select areas or countries,
- an increasing international mobility in the formative years of scholars, interpreted both as a creative experience and as politically controversial migration (desired mobility versus brain gain/drain), and finally
- growing weight within European policies aiming to establish a European Higher Education Area and a European Research Area.

It is obvious that the formation period of scholars is usually divided in two or three stages: the doctoral stage, possibly a post-doctoral stage and that of scholars with independent academic assignment prior to senior positions. However, it is worth observing the common conditions and elements, the differences and the links between these stages.

The aim of the conference is to take stock of the available knowledge of the

- interaction between formation of competences and productive research work,
- opportunities and constraints of study, working and employment conditions, and
- impact of Europeanisation and internationalisation on the formative years of scholars in Europe.

Dialogues in these thematic areas are facilitated due to the fact that some stock-taking research projects have been undertaken recently, some policy papers have been published and some conferences have been organized which contribute our knowledge. The Stockholm conference 2005 is hoped to serve as a comprehensive stock-taking activity and as a forum for new thoughts about the learning, work and living environment of scholars in the formative years.

Programme of the Conference

Wednesday, 9th November 2005 - Wenner-Gren Center

18.00 Welcome Reception & Buffet at the Wenner-Gren Center

Thursday, 10th November 2005 - Haga Forum

Greetings and Introduction
Representative of Academia Europaea
Representative of Wenner-Gren Foundations
Representative of preparatory group

Session I - Thursday Morning

Changes of the knowledge systems and their implications for the formative stage of scholars

Experiences in the natural sciences
Professor Jens Erik Fenstad (Norway)

Experiences in the engineering sciences
Professor Paavo Uronen (Finland)

Experiences in the humanities and social sciences
Professor Björn Wittrock (Sweden)

Session II - Thursday Afternoon

Changing external conditions for the formative stage of scholars

Knowledge society and growing utilitarian expectations
Professor Peter Scott (UK)

The changing labour market for researchers
Mr. Raffaele Liberali (EC, Brussels)

Changing funding modes for junior scholars
Dr. Indra Willms-Hoff (Germany)

Brain drain: What we know and what we do not know
Bernd Wächter (Belgium)

Evening Guided Tour and Dinner at the Wasa Museum

Session III - Friday Morning

The development of the doctorate

The doctorate in Europe and North America: Findings of a Comparative Study
Professor Dr. Barbara M. Kehm (Germany)

Study/work conditions, employment situation, selection and careers
Dr. Janet Metcalfe (UK)

The future of the doctorate: Concepts and debates
Philippe Laredo (France)

Session IV - Friday Afternoon

The development of post-doctoral/junior academic careers

The post-doctoral phase of academics: Assignments, cooperation and supervision
Lennart Philipson (Sweden)

Work conditions and employment situation
Professor Dr. Jürgen Enders (Netherlands)

The role of cooperation and mobility in the formative years
Professor Gunnar Öquist (Sweden)

Panel Discussion:
Future European Policies with Respect to the Formative Years of Scholars
(Participants to be announced)

Evening

Dinner at Villa Pauli, Djursholm

Preparation and Administrative Arrangements

The conference will take place from the 9th – 11th November 2005 at the Haga Forum in Stockholm.

The conference will be prepared on behalf of the Academia Europaea by:

Prof. Ulrich Teichler, Chair

Kassel, Germany (email: teichler@hochschulforschung.uni-kassel.de)

Prof. Jens Erik Fenstad, Coordinator

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and

Prof. Bertil Daneholt, Coordinator

Stockholm, Sweden (email: Bertil.Daneholt@cmb.ki.se)

The speakers are asked to prepare a paper for distribution and to speak for 30 minutes in order to allow a discussion. They will be asked to reconsider the paper after the conference and to submit the paper for publication within two months after the conference. The speakers will be informed in advance that a publication of the proceedings is envisaged (at Portland Press Publishers, the publisher of the previous conference proceedings). Ulrich Teichler will serve as editor of the proceedings.

Invitations will be sent to a broad audience: Vice-Rectors in charge of academic affairs, heads of graduate schools (through letters to the universities), heads of research promotion and fellowship programmes, policy makers, members of higher education and research councils, member of the Academia Europaea, various experts from Sweden and neighbouring countries.