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Diversification of Higher Education and the Academic Profession

Papers from the HERCULES symposium, Turin, Italy 2009
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The Academic Profession: A Common Core, a Diversified Group or an Outdated Idea?
Alessandro Cavalli and Ulrich Teichler  S1

The Early Career Paths and Employment Conditions of the Academic Profession in 17 Countries
Alice Bennion and William Locke  S7

Academic Systems and Professional Conditions in Five European Countries
Alessandro Cavalli and Roberto Moscati  S35

Academic Freedom in a Changing Academic World
Timo Aarrevaara  S55

Challenges to Academic Freedom: Some Empirical Evidence
Michele Rostan  S71

Liberty versus Common Good
Iván Zoltán Dénes  S89

The Academic Profession in China in the Context of Social Transition: An Institutional Perspective
Fengqiao Yan  S99

The Academic Profession and the Managerial University: An International Comparative Study from Japan
Akira Arimoto  S117

Diversification in the Academic Workforce: The Case of the US and Implications for Europe
Martin J. Finkelstein  S141

The Diversifying Academic Profession?
Ulrich Teichler  S157

The Future of the University
Jürgen Mittelstrass  S181
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Thus the Compagnia is not a bank, although it proudly continues with the civic and philanthropic traditions which were those of Istituto Bancario San Paolo, neither is it a public body, though it dialogues and collaborates with many public institutions at local, national and European levels. On the other hand it is an active member of civil society, a non profit organisation which, albeit private, pursues aims of public interest and social use, in order to foster the civil, cultural and economic development of the community in which it operates. The revenues generated by its assets accumulated over the centuries, and which we undertake to pass on intact to future generations, are made available for these aims.

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The Compagnia defines its objectives through multi-annual and annual programmes, and operates both by making grants to organisations who propose projects in line with its programmes. Although it is deeply rooted in Turin, and works mainly in Piedmont and Liguria, the Compagnia plays a significant role in national (with particular emphasis on the Mezzogiorno), European and international projects, often in cooperation with other major foundations.
Higher Education, Research and CULTure in European Society (HERCULES) group of the Academia Europaea.

The group was established in 2004 to identify and deliver initiatives relevant to the practises of higher education, research and cultural scholarship at the European level. The focus is always on interdisciplinary topics of broad interest, including preparation of research policy and practise statements on behalf of the Council of the Academia Europaea.

Core members of the group involved in the running of the symposium that formed the basis of the publication of this volume include:

**Coordinator:** Erik de Corte (Education, Leuven, B)


In 2010 the topic will be “Interfaces of Sciences and the Arts” and in 2011 “Trust in Higher Education: ethical and quality standards in research and teaching”.

The online version of previous publications from the HERCULES series can be accessed at [http://fyos.portlandpress.com](http://fyos.portlandpress.com)

Past initiatives since 2000:

- “Formative Years of Scholars” (With the Wenner Gren Foundation). 2005
- “The University in the Market”. (With the Wenner Gren Foundation). 2007
Pre- 2000

- New challenges for the Academic Profession. May 1996. Rotterdam
- Interdisciplinarity and the organisation of knowledge in Europe. September 1997. Cambridge (UK)
- High bandwidth for European Education and Research. 1999. November. Uxbridge (HiBeer)