

# Climate Change, Economy Change and Universities

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\* **Rapid climate change** is a grave problem, now and in the near future.

\* **The political, business and public responses** are inadequate.

\* **This inadequacy** may be understood from *The Great Transformation*

Instead of economy being embedded in social relations, social relations are embedded in the economic system.

Karl Polanyi

\* **Current general discourse** is economistic and conservative, economic growth being considered vital.

**Universities** are indeed now more 'for sale', but ...

the power of vested interests is vastly exaggerated compared with the gradual encroachment of ideas.

John Maynard Keynes

\* **The historic notion of universities as havens for critical thought** is still alive.

\* **Important tasks for universities at present** include

- exposing the narrowness of usual economised discourse
- working with all stakeholders to develop adequate vision.

\* **The economy change needed** is based on a radical change of values -

**from** prioritising a single measure of value (money),

**to** prioritising justice, generosity, imagination and empathy;

**from** exalting growth,

**to** promoting well-being;

**from** putting property before people,

**to** putting people before property;

**from** fetishising work,

**to** sharing it appropriately between people and machines.

\* **The economy-as-usual** is not viable.