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.