

# University Futures

Final Conference of UNIKE

‘Universities in the Knowledge Economy’

[unike.au.dk](http://unike.au.dk)



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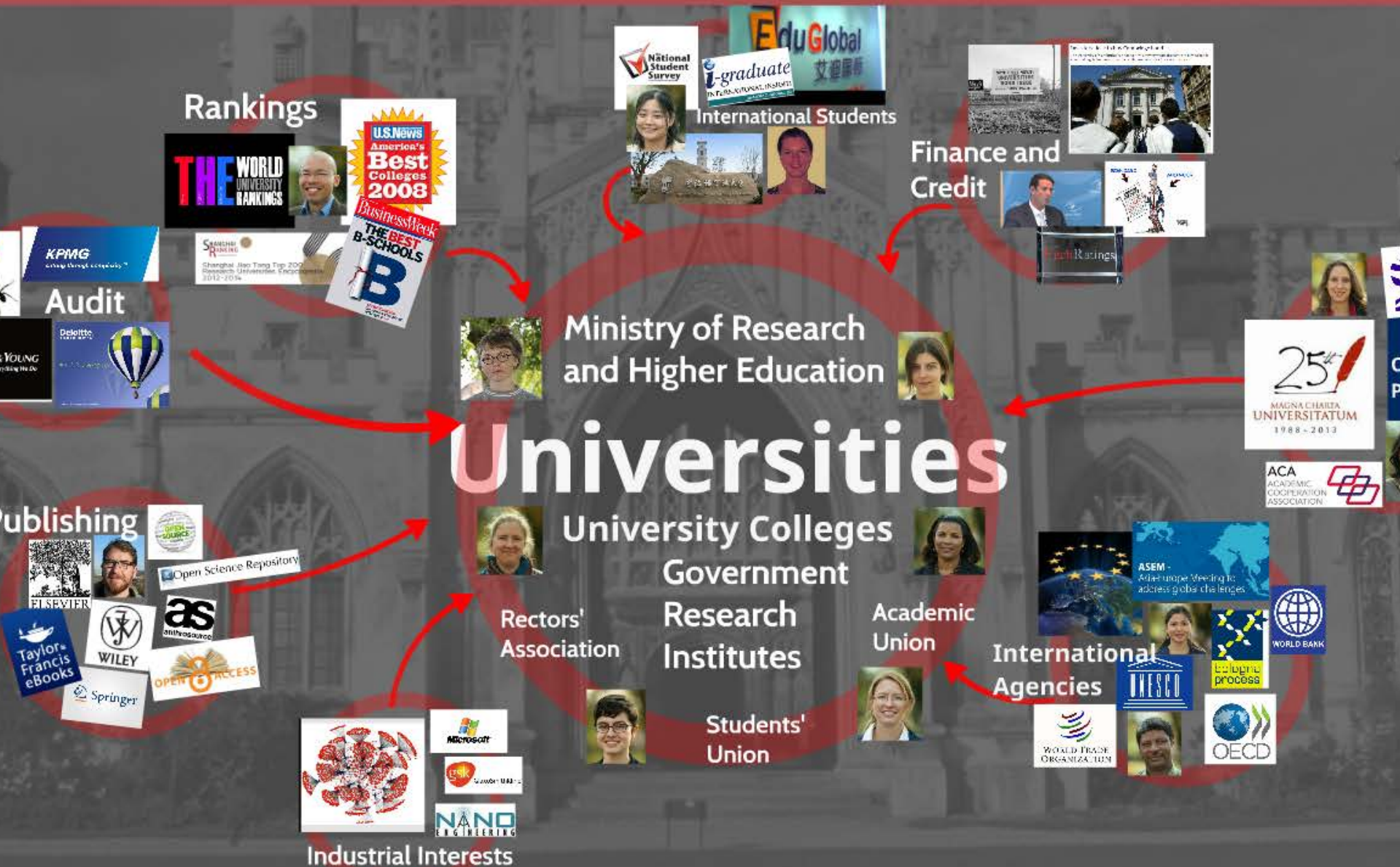
# UNIKE Aims

- 1. To produce a networked group of expertly trained, mobile and independent future research leaders who are highly competent to work in a range of sectors and develop new, critical and interdisciplinary analyses of the role and scope of universities in global knowledge economies and regions. (Europe and Asia-Pacific Rim)**
- 2. To create a cohort of current and future research leaders committed and able to develop doctoral education in their own institutions and internationally**

## How

- 14 Fellows + 5 Assoc Fellows – independent projects – 6 workshops & 2 conferences
- Reconceptualise the field/sector/ecology of universities in the knowledge economy
- Reflexive and critical understanding of (own) doctoral training
- Networked cohort – ‘meeting’ electronically - Deep knowledge of each others’ work - ethos of ‘critical encouragement’
- Use knowledge and experience - what kinds of universities/research centres/policy frameworks do they want to inhabit in the future?
- How to work together in the project and beyond to create this – 6 themes

# Universities in the Global Knowledge Economy: A New Institutional Ecology



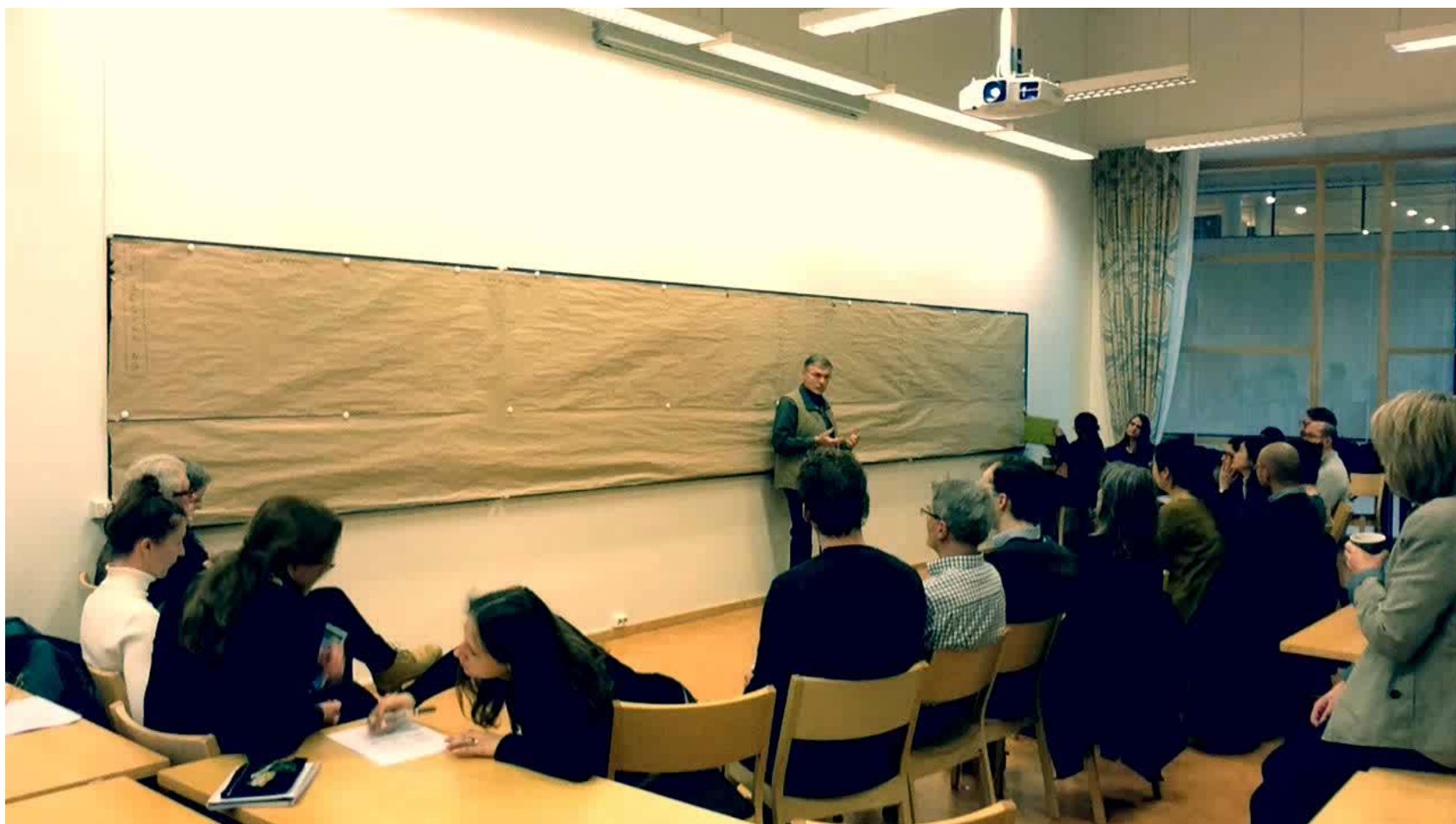
# Search Conference Process

- Create a shared history - every participant understands how other participants see the world
- What would be the probable future if nothing were done?
- In groups, what is your vision of a desirable future?
- In groups, identify a problem and develop an action plan
- Follow-up activity to share achievements and plan next steps





# Creating a Shared History



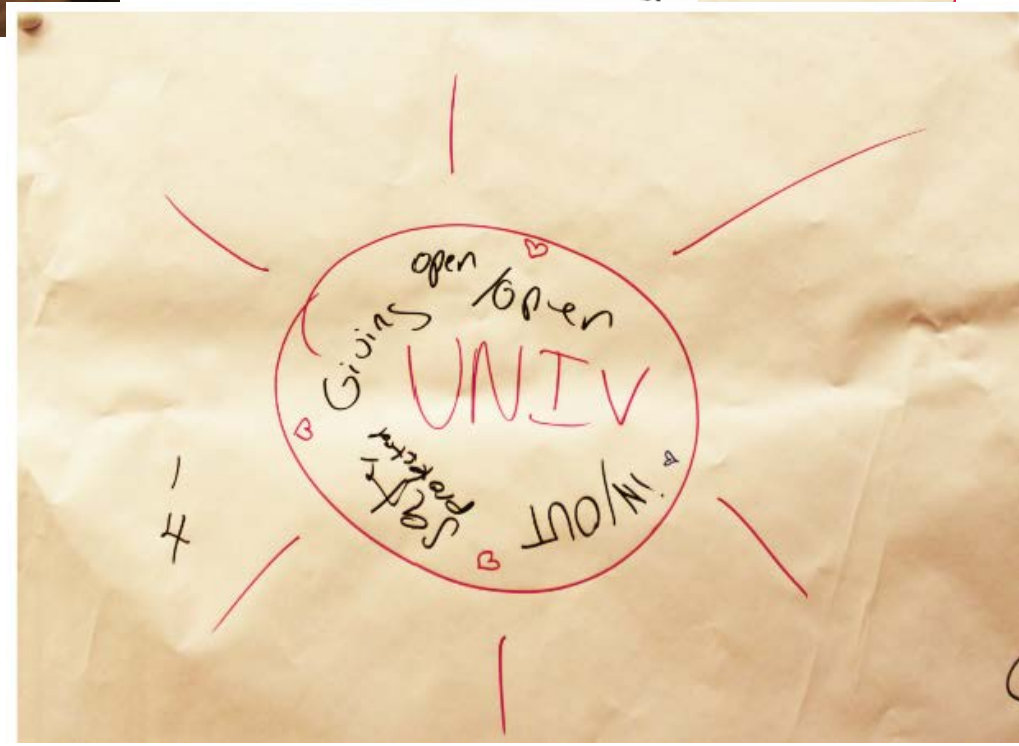


## 2 - Features of the ideal university

- The university is like a sun
- It is open for everyone
- The university is giving
- Mutual relationship between teachers and students, teachers are also giving
- Safe and protected area

## 4 - Features of the ideal university

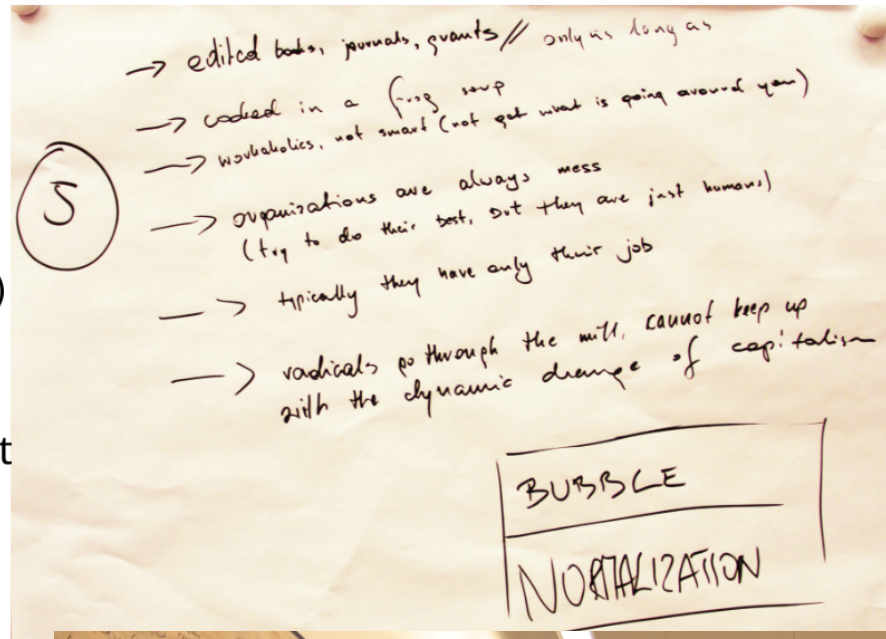
- Increasing awareness of social justice issues and inequality in order to further a more socially just HE system
- Create a society that engender equal status between different forms if HE qualifications and professions
- Free education - tax based
- Collective resistance to ranking
- Practical goal: Publication of maximum 2 journal articles peer year (lowering 'the bullshit')
- Balance





## 5 - Probable future

- Edited books, journals grant
- Cooked in a frog soup
- workaholics, not smart (not get what is going on around them)
- Organisations are always a mess (try to do their best, but they are just humans)
- Typically they (the organisations) have only their job
- The radicals go through the mill, cannot keep up with the dynamic change of capitalism
- People caring about HE will get into smaller and smaller bubbles
- People in academia have a tendency to get very focused on what they are doing, they are happy to be left alone. They will therefore get into bubbles. - less impact
- No normalization - when the radicals want a job in academia and want impact, they have to compromise so much that they are not radical anymore



# Six Themes

1. Constructing a liveable university using feminist and post-capitalist ideas
2. Reassembling knowledge production with(out) the university
3. How do nation-states mobilize universities to position themselves in the global knowledge economy?
4. How can universities be transformed to centre on public goods in teaching, research, and community engagement?
5. Reconsidering "Internationalization" from peripheral perspectives
6. Market-driven or open-ended higher education?

# Conference organising

- Groups of fellows defined the themes
- Decided which partners, associated partners and others to invite
- Decided format for sessions
- Each theme has one parallel and one plenary

## Workshop next week

- Each theme reports on progress during the conference
- Decide on future action
- Publications





# Welcome to 'University Futures'

Please share your conferences experiences on  
social media using the hashtag  
#UniversityFutures