Closing keynote

Weaving it all into One

Sir John Daniel
Does this really feel like an age of opportunity?
To software giants grappling with massive loss of public confidence in their protection of users’ privacy?
To governments trying to counter a general loss of trust in institutions?
To universities trying to manage their enrolments?
Higher education is grounded in a belief in progress.
Nostalgia is a depressive state linked to a pining for a past time or place.

"Across the developed world people and movements are reaching back to an often illusory past trying to chart the future through a form of retreat."
“we've collectively entered a funhouse time machine trudging backward”
The Age of Challenge: Privacy, Trust and Learner Mobility

Have our discussions provided pointers to turn this into an age of opportunity?
THREE ISSUES

- Privacy strategies
- Policies for Trust
- Overseas students
The darlings of the technology industry
‘The failings of America’s self-regulatory approach are becoming clearer by the week.

Large parts of the online economy are fuelled by data that consumers spray around without thought.

Companies’ arcane privacy policies obfuscate what they do with their users’ information - which often amounts to pretty much anything they please.’
Every click you make...

“Nobody reads the fine print... so here, as a public service in 2018, is a non-exhaustive compendium of what you agree to when you accept the terms of service of Facebook, Google, Amazon or virtually any other internet or social networking company.

“Depending on the company, you’re giving permission to it track your physical movements, your appointments and your meetings.
Every click you make…

“If it’s a social-media app. you’re providing it with list of your friends and relatives – and a good deal more, such as a record of your internet searches. You may well have ceded control of your microphone or camera.

“Accepting an app’s request to access your phone contacts can also provide it with unfettered access to your text messages and the time, duration, location and number for every incoming and outgoing call.”
Every click you make…

“Oh, and you’re definitely allowing Facebook, LinkedIn and hundreds of others to sell aspects of this information. If they are swallowed by a bigger company that data will in all likelihood, transfer to the buyer. Often you accept that it could get hacked, stolen or misused along the way.

“Would we blithely accept this mixture of intrusion and lack of control if government were demanding it? Not a chance!
Every click you make…

“The central problem is default settings: to maintain privacy one must opt in. This is exactly backwards, and it is not innocent. Companies shift responsibility to users while reserving the power to limit their privacy choices. It is the industry standard and central to many business models.
Every click you make...
Every click you make...

Every breath you take,
Every move you make,
Every bond you break,
Every step you take,
I’ll be watching you.

The editorial concludes:
CLICK HERE IF YOU AGREE
We need new rules for the Internet, but can we do this without ‘defriending’ the social media?
‘It is time for Silicon Valley to pay unto Caesar, not least so that we plebeians can use the tax revenue to fix the things they keep breaking, such as journalism’.
EU General Data Protection Regulation
Large parts of the online economy are fuelled by data that consumers spray around without thought.
Will people go to the barricades in defence of their privacy?
THREE ISSUES

➢ Privacy strategies

➢ Policies for Trust

➢ Overseas students
‘the economic, social and cultural success of nations relates directly to the trust that their people have in each other and in their institutions’
‘strangers learned to trust one another when signing contracts, allowing them to do deals outside the circles of family, tribal or in-group kinship’
With the result that the US no longer figures in this year’s list of the (19) ‘full democracies’ *EIU*
Definition
"circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief."
Example

“In this era of post-truth politics, it is easy to cherry-pick data and come to whatever conclusion you desire”
"the lack of confidence in academia is a great challenge. What role can a truth-seeking university play in an era characterised as 'post-truth?'"
Faced with the prospect of a post-factual society, universities have to re-establish a respect for objective truth and powerful arguments – through our educational programmes and through our public outreach.

Ole Petter Ottersen
Rector, University of Oslo
We have to create many more arenas for debate – arenas that are open and inclusive so as to give a voice to those who feel left behind too.

Universities should be trust-building as well as truth-seeking.
In our age of turbulence these two words – trust and truth – are inextricably intertwined.

Ole Petter Ottersen
Rector, University of Oslo

University World News
POPULISM

- Nostalgia for the past
- Post-truth rhetoric
- Lack of trust in experts & institutions
- Desire to divide
- HOSTILITY TO ELITES
“Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory”

Franklin Pierce Adams (1861-1960)
The Good Old Days ARE NOW!
THREE ISSUES

- Privacy strategies
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Nalanda University (5th century BC)
Erasmus of Rotterdam
1466-1536
GLOBAL

Is the era of internationalisation at risk – or not?
Hans de Wit 23 March 2018 Issue No:498

GLOBAL

The case for optimism on internationalisation of HE
Alex Usher 30 March 2018 Issue No:499

CHINA

The closing of China will affect universities worldwide
Philip G Altbach and Hans de Wit 09 March 2018 Issue No:496

GLOBAL

The challenge to higher education internationalisation
Philip G Altbach and Hans de Wit 23 February 2018 Issue No:494
Phil Altbach
Hans de Wit

‘The global landscape for higher education internationalisation is changing dramatically. What one might call the ‘era of higher education internationalisation over the past 25 years (1990-2015) that has characterised university thinking and action might be finished, or at least on life support.’
The closing of China will affect universities worldwide

Philip G Altbach and Hans de Wit 09 March 2018 Issue No:496
‘...to the extent there is a crisis, it exists precisely where the financial model for internationalisation rests on the willingness of a host government to subsidise foreign students indefinitely on the same basis as domestic ones.’
‘institutions in the UK and the US desperately want to see more international students, but their efforts are being damaged by ‘governments which are desperately unpopular that may well be replaced in the very near future’
Conclusion
Does this really feel like an age of opportunity?
...do not lose your idealism for allowing students to carry their qualifications with them in a secure manner.

But remember that the implementation of the Groningen Declaration will require you to overcome many challenges before you can fully reap the opportunities.
Thank you!

Sir John Daniel

For text & slides:
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