

Transvaluation: the dream made real ***a manifesto***

The large-scale transformation of higher education – through what is commonly known as the *Bologna Process* – signalled the definitive breakthrough of “globalized” practices of teaching and research in the academic world. Ever since, the pedagogical performance of all institutions involved in this process was thoroughly measured through organized practices of evaluation. This process of formalization has now started to blur the origins of research and higher education, as well as its futures.

Research and education have long abided by the technologies of measurement. We now need to direct the evaluating practices back to their proper purpose and scope, and again take charge of the true challenge: practicing values. This is what we mean by *transvaluation* (as formulated by Nietzsche, Irigaray). Our purpose is to reconceive *politics and poetics of value*, to reorient research towards social, political, and poetical values able to manifest – or *materialize* – the worlds to come. This type of materialization, in turn, we call *worlding* (as examined by Heidegger, Nancy, Spivak): the desire to enact and transform the world as a space of poetics (“making”). Not only should these envisage the *future of materials* – crucial in an age of unrivalled technological discovery – but also the future of *intangibles*, of ideas and ideals, of dreams of a better world, of a more just society, of human equality and liberty... This space of poetics will be expanded by the pursuit of new transformative values that can enrich our societies, our cultures and the world itself. Institutions and disciplines might become transient “docking stations” on a journey towards cultural renovation, unleashed creativity and revitalised political ambition. In connecting the poetics and politics of value with worlding, we hope to create the conditions for a new university, the university *Bologna* once seemed to have promised.

So let us, artists, architects and philosophers involved in research, unshackle *Bologna* from its measurement systems by inviting students, teachers and researchers outside the routines of traditional practice and reconnecting them to speculative theory and utopian thinking. Let us call upon our competence to constantly remake, reconfigure, recompose and reinterpret complexities, through poetics and practices of value, and through the material. Let us release the creative energies needed to open up imprisoned perspectives. Let us speculate about future knowledge and future values, instead of merely evaluating existing knowledge-procedures. Let us try to invent new forms of creative knowledge and, in doing so, empower communities of common interest (instead of lingering in marketing practices such as “research by design”). To teach as well as to invent means to “learn to see the connections,” as Wittgenstein once said. This illuminates the very meaning of the poetics or politics of value: to look ahead, to see what was still hidden, and to start looking where no-one has looked before.

The future university will be the site where values are forged and contested, the place where materials, energies and ideas are invented and transformed. In that sense, the future university will be a *U-topos*: the kind of space *Bologna* dreamt of, but immediately forgot upon waking. Now the story of the dream must finally be told, because the space it held *can* be realised. We, humans, are dreamers perfected. Let’s use this unique evolutionary gift to start sharing our knowledge and transvaluating our world. ***Transvaluation: the real made dream.***