

12.2.2026

Author

BENGTSEN, Soren S. E.

Title

Supercomplexity and the university: Ronald Barnett and the social philosophy of Higher Education /
Soren S. E. Bengtsen

Publication year

2018

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education quarterly. - 72 (2018) 1, S. 65 - 74

Inventory number

46630

Keywords

Hochschule : Idee und Aufgabe ; Hochschule : gegenwärtige Situation

Abstract

Ronald Barnett's modern classic *Realizing the University in an Age of Supercomplexity* (published December 1999), has had a crucial impact internationally on the field of Higher Education research and development since the book was published now nearly 20 years ago. Bridging an academic oeuvre across almost 30 years with close to 30 published volumes, *Realizing the University in an Age of Supercomplexity* plays an important role in the development and transformation of Barnett's social theory of Higher Education into a social philosophy of Higher Education. In the book Barnett performs an important move from a focus on knowledge and epistemology to a focus on being and ontology in relation to Higher Education practices. Barnett shifts his fundamental perspective and view on the relation between universities and the wider society from one of caution and worry to a perspective of hope and vision that fully embraces the future of Higher Education. This way, *Realizing the University in an Age of Supercomplexity* has not only paved the way for Barnett's own development of a social philosophy of Higher Education, but also contributed invaluable to the rise

12.2.2026

and maturing of philosophy of Higher Education as a research field in its own right. (HRK / Abstract
übernommen)