

APIKS International Conference 2023 Krems, Austria

September 1st - 3rd 2023

Call for Papers: The Changing Academic Profession in the Knowledge-based Societies

We invite submissions on the topic of **the changing nature of the academic profession in the knowledge society, with a focus on changes over time in a country, cross-country comparisons, e.g., higher education systems (i.e., macro-level) and institutions (i.e., meso-level), including implication for governance and management practices in higher education.**

Introduction

The knowledge-based society is characterized by the increasing importance of knowledge and expertise in driving economic growth and societal development (Pausits 2015). This has led to significant changes in the role and expectations of the academic profession (Aarrevaara et al., 2021), the organization and governance of higher education institutions (Bleiklie & Kogan, 2007) as well as performance measures (Kivistö et al., 2019) and career progressions (Machado-Taylor et al. 2017). The concept of a “knowledge-based society” refers to a societal shift in which knowledge and information play a central role in economic and social development” (Carayannis, 2020, p. 1542).

In such a society, the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge become key drivers of economic growth and social progress. The academic profession, which includes researchers and educators, is a key enabler in the knowledge-based society. Academics are responsible for creating new knowledge through research and for disseminating that knowledge through teaching, publishing, and outreach activities (Huang, Aarrevaara & Teichler, 2022). In the context of the academic profession, the knowledge-based society has also led to changes in the nature of academic work and in the relationship between academia and society (Teichler & Cummings, 2015). There is a growing emphasis on the need for academics to engage with industry and other stakeholders to apply their research in solving societal problems, which is known as “knowledge transfer” or “technology transfer” (Pausits, 2015; Schneijderberg & Götze, 2021; Schneijderberg et al., 2021). This has led to the emergence of new roles for academics, such as “entrepreneurial academics” (Barth & Schlegelmilch, 2013) and “engaged scholars” (Barge & Shockley-Zalabak, 2008) who are actively involved in creating new knowledge and applying it to solve societal problems.

Comparing the academic profession across different countries and regions is important in understanding the changing role of academia in the knowledge-based society. International comparison can provide valuable insights into the similarities and differences in the ways in which different countries organize and support the academic profession, and how these differences may impact the ability of academia to contribute to social (including cultural, economic, political, etc.) development. International comparison can also reveal best practices and successful models for supporting the academic profession and career progression, which can then be adapted and applied in other countries. For example, comparing the systems for recognizing and promoting academic excellence can provide insights into the most effective ways to support the dissemination and application of knowledge. In addition to this, it can also help to identify the challenges and issues

that the academic profession is facing globally and how to tackle them. This can also provide meaningful insights to identify the areas where improvement is needed.

The conference will examine the ways in which these changes have affected the academic profession, with a focus on the following themes:

- The changing role and expectations of academics in the knowledge society over time
- The impact of these changes on the academic profession, including issues related to career progression, workload, and job satisfaction
- Trends and shifts in governance and management and how they impact the desirability to work in academia, job satisfaction and collaboration inside and outside academic environments
- International comparisons of the academic profession in the knowledge society, including differences in the ways in which academics are trained, employed, and rewarded
- The use of time series data to understand the evolution of the academic profession in the knowledge society

We welcome submissions that use a variety of methodologies, including quantitative and/or international comparative analyses as well as theoretical papers. We invite especially but not exclusively international comparative contributions, involving at least two countries (for example APIKS studies) and/or time series dealing with at least two time series data sets (for example comparing APIKS, CAP and/or Carnegie data).

Publications

Selected papers will be published within the well-known series titled "The Changing Academy – The Changing Academic Profession in International Comparative Perspective" edited by Timo Aarrevaara and Martin Finkelstein. This series aims to investigate the transformations faced by the academic profession by taking an international comparative approach, both at the level of higher education systems and specific fields of science like technology, engineering, or mathematics. The series aims to understand the causes and effects of these changes, as well as their implications on the appeal of the academic profession as a career and the ability of the academic community to contribute to the advancement of knowledge-based societies and the achievement of national objectives. After the conference, we will invite conference participants as well as all other APIKS team members to submit a proposal for a chapter in a new book edited by the conference hosts.

Submissions

Prospective attendees are encouraged to submit a proposal for a paper or a panel that addresses the conference theme. A paper presentation involves one or more authors presenting their research findings on a specific topic. Meanwhile, a panel typically consists of 3-4 presentations centered around a shared research topic delivered by a group of authors with the support of a moderator. In the case of a panel, a joint proposal is anticipated.

Please submit an abstract of no more than 500 words.

The abstract should include:

- Title
- Author(s)
- Theoretical framework/Definition of concepts
- Methodology
- Data analysis
- Conclusions

The accepted abstracts will be distributed to all APIKS teams and conference participants. The author(s) of each proposal will have 20 minutes to present and there will be 10 minutes for discussion.

Abstract submission deadline: May 1st, 2023

Notification of Acceptance: May 15th, 2023.

Abstracts should be sent to apiks@donau-uni.ac.at

Further information can already be found at our [website](#). We look forward to receiving your submission and discussing these important issues at the conference in Krems, Austria.

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