

On Cultural Contributions

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Introduction into Cultural Contributions

- ✧ co-writing and thinking process
- ✧ cultural contribution as a topic challenges the hegemony of seeing HE through primary economic indicators
- ✧ the topic is understudied
- ✧ Culture: a social phenomenon & an intellectual device
- ✧



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Cultural formations in universities

- 1) HEIs maintaining cultural infrastructure;
- 2) HEIs supporting external cultural activities and outreach;
- 3) HEIs producing culture through internal cultural groups.



n=120 universities worldwide, mainly in capital cities

	1129
1. HEIs maintaining cultural infrastructure	1129
Libraries	720
Museums and galleries	146
Religious places, churches and groups	73
Archives, collections, and Documentation centres	55
Centres of arts and sciences, cultures, medieval studies, international centres, language centres, observatories	42
Historical campus/historical buildings	40
Bookstores, bazaars and cafes	37
Botanical and historical gardens	9
Concert Halls, ballrooms and dancehalls	7
2. HEIs supporting external cultural activities and outreach	395
Culture, art, music, theatre events, exhibitions, competitions, festivals, public forums, open stages	124
Museum partners	102
Symphony/ philharmonic orchestra, concerts	66
Magazines, newspapers, press, radio, tv, record labels	58
Summer schools, master classes, workshops and projects in (music/art/literature)	45
3. HEIs producing culture through internal cultural groups	1016
Music/dance/folk/Choirs groups, Dance Studios	373
Student organisations, union and clubs	222
Culture clubs/communities/workshop	196
Opera/drama/ballet, theatre, magic, circus group	176
Film group/cinema, photography society	25
Literature, poetry group	7
Food organization/group	6
Painting and cartoons groups, drawing hall/drawing group	6
Debate, philosophy, history, archaeology clubs	5

Students supporting urban cultures

- Students have a role in shaping cultural and entertainment spaces in urban centres
- Students are not a unified group



- impact on the urban cultures
- special cultural spaces:
- for example, closed elite clubs, ethnic cafes, street art, local monuments, etc.



University in Cultural Imageries: Literature, Cinema and TV

College-life Movies and Campus Novels:

- university/college is used as a context or a canvas in the story
- stories focusing on personal growth of students
- relationships between students and their professors
- the relationship of universities/colleges with society
- special university aesthetics (“dark academy”)

Intersections of cultural and political activities

- Research into cultural topics leads into calls for political action
- Student cultural events turning into manifestations of political sentiment



Conclusions

- Cultural contributions of HE are a complex global phenomenon, and further research is needed to understand its mechanisms.
- If we don't pay attention to cultural contributions of HE n we easily lose sight of the most important channels through which HEIs can bring value for citizens.
- In this regard, cultural contributions of higher education belong to the main public good activities offered by HEIs.



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