

## CGHE Annual Conference 24-25 May 2022: Session details



### **KEYNOTE: The University and the Social Imagination**

25 May 2022, 4.30-5.30pm (UK)

*Chair: Simon Marginson*

*Speakers: Keri Facer, University of Bristol*

What is the role of universities in fostering and cultivating alternative visions of the future? Can universities play this role or are they part of the problem? And what are the ethical implications of taking on this position? This talk will explore the recent demand for universities to address the 'crisis of the imagination' and argue that if Higher Education institutions are to play a role in nurturing transformative futures this will require, in turn, a disruptive act of imagination about what a university is – one that demands a disentangling of the relationship between the contemporary university form and the institutional practices of modernity. The talk will explore some of the practices and philosophical assumptions that might support such acts of imagination and responsibility.

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*Keri Facer is Professor of Educational and Social Futures at the University of Bristol & University of Gothenburg where she is currently exploring how ideas of the future and of time shape education's capacity to foster personal and collective agency. She has examined the relationship between education and futures for two decades, with a particular interest in the potential of universities and schools to act as democratic resources for addressing technological and environmental change. From 2018-2020 she was Zennström Professor in Climate Change Leadership at Uppsala University. From 2012-2018 she led the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council Connected Communities Programme, a £40m programme of university-community collaboration. Her work in educational futures has seen her partner with organisations from the BBC, the UK's Department for Education and Electronic Arts to local city farms, ecovillages and community organisations. Her books include 'Learning Futures: Education, Technology and Social Change' and 'Working with Time in Qualitative Research'. She is joint Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Futures and edits the Routledge Book Series on Futures and Anticipation. She is a member of the UNESCO Futures of Education Commission Expert Advisory Group.*