



Universities and Innovation Economies: The Creative Wasteland of Post-Industrial Society

By Peter Murphy

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Students drop out of universities in large numbers, many graduate to jobs that do not require a degree and a large number learn little at university, whilst graduate salaries have shrunk over time and student loan debt and default have grown. University research achievements have declined while university administration has expanded massively. The contemporary university is mired in auditing, regulation, waste and aimlessness and its contribution to serious social innovation has deteriorated markedly. The miserable state of the universities reflects a larger social reality, as bureaucratic capitalism has replaced creative capitalism. Universities and Innovation Economies examines the rise and fall of the mass university and post-industrial society, considering how we might revitalize economic and intellectual creativity. Looking to a much more inventive social and economic paradigm to drive long-term growth, the author argues for a smaller, leaner, more effective university model - one capable of delivering a greater degree of high-level discovery and creative power. A potent critique of the post-industrial mass university that urges a reimagination of universities as places of discovery and invention, this book will appeal to readers interested in higher education, creativity, social theory, the sociology of work and organisations, political economy, pedagogy and public policy.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Peter Murphy has written a cogent and compelling indictment of the costs to society and education of the bureaucratization of the university. The fatal unintended consequence of the mass expansion of universities since 1970 has been the swamping of the university's core functions of teaching and research by policy, process, and performance management. The destruction of academic autonomy by a proliferating parasitic administration is at the heart of the systemic crisis of the signature institution of post-industrial knowledge society. Peter Murphy's book is essential reading for all who care about the future of universities." David Roberts, Emeritus Professor of German, Monash University, Australia.

"Peter Murphy's new book is a bold, courageous and unintimidated attempt to offer a fresh perspective on the role, contribution and nature of the institution of the academy. It combines historical analysis with ideological critique, statistical data and academic performance against the background of the changing cultural and philosophical trends that have shaped individuals and practices over the last forty years. Murphy argues for a new kind of university: resourceful, entrepreneurial and creative, an institution that will challenge conformism and conformity with new ideas, solid knowledge of the past and openness to innovation and critique. This is a very opportune book: it exposes the current stagnation but at the same time envisions new horizons. It is also a necessary book - for all academics, students and governments. It shapes a new cultural and epistemic paradigm for the function of the most important Western institution of learning and acting." Vrasidas Karalis, Sir Nicholas Laurantus Professor of Modern Greek, University of Sydney, Australia.

"If there is a myth which universities have woven around themselves, it is that they are centres of innovation and world-changing research. Peter Murphy's excellent new book both punctures those illusions and provides a sober picture of the many failings of the contemporary university. He demonstrates that the amount of ground-breaking research achieved by universities is declining just as the cost of research is ballooning, and that what universities stand for now is stultifying bureaucratic regimentation. Murphy demonstrates that this can only be reversed if the dinosaurs of today can become fleet-of-foot small mammals. A brilliant book which needs to be read by our political leaders." Gregory Melleuish, Associate Professor of History and Politics, University of Wollongong, Australia.

"This is a brilliant, indeed an indispensable book. It provides a compelling diagnosis of the decline and failure of the contemporary bureaucratic and managerially governed university, the post-industrial-bureaucratic driven economy, and the social liberal-democratic-bureaucratic state... what makes the book truly remarkable is the thoroughness of the diagnosis and the mountains of evidence that the book marshals to make its case. Moreover, both the diagnosis and the evidence that is summoned to confirm the diagnosis could only have been made by someone who effortlessly moves between the disciplinary compartmentalisations... [Murphy] is a real scholar, a prodigious researcher, and an inventive thinker... equally capable of drawing upon Sociology, Economics, Political Science, History, Philosophy, Education, Management Theory, and Statistics... Although Murphy's diagnosis is of our time, the wisdom of this work makes it a great unmasking of the delusions that drive our society spiritually and economically ever more

into the despotic depths that Tocqueville rightly feared laid incubating within modern democracies, were they not addressed and dealt with. In this respect, this book should have a very long shelf-life... Murphy's book is a litany of the pertinent inconvenient facts that surround the new roles that have accrued to universities in their task of enabling 'innovative economies'. What makes Murphy's critique so devastating is that he outplays the managerialists in the one game that managers pride themselves on--the game of requiring that the facts that really count can be counted numerically." Wayne Cristaudo (Charles Darwin University), *Journal of Economics Library*, 3:2, June 2016, 353-358.

...the core argument that underlines his thoughts about universities is about modernity, creativity and their trajectories. [Murphy's book is] engaging and vivid in its examples and data, and it often draws on Australian cases to make the point... [He] counter-poses management to creativity [and] makes the argument that the central functions of universities are both inherently aggregative and as they grow, increasingly ineffective. Unlike cities, universities do not become more efficient with size... Murphy supports [his] thesis... with extensive and fascinating data of historical patterns of creativity in the science and arts... Murphy's ideas are equally determined in expression, brimming with the joy of fearless unorthodoxy... *Universities and Innovation Economies...* is remarkable in the range of its curiosity and its scholarship... Murphy knows exactly what he wants: a much smaller university focused on discovery and stimulating learning, alongside colleges devoted to scholarship, and institutes of vocational training." Simon Marginson, University of London, *Australian Universities Review*, 58:1, 2016, 72-80.

'Peter Murphy has written a cogent and compelling indictment of the costs to society and education of the bureaucratization of the university. The fatal unintended consequence of the mass expansion of universities since 1970 has been the swamping of the university's core functions of teaching and research by policy, process, and performance management. The destruction of academic autonomy by a proliferating parasitic administration is at the heart of the systemic crisis of the signature institution of post-industrial knowledge society. Peter Murphy's book is essential reading for all who care about the future of universities.' David Roberts, Emeritus Professor of German, Monash University, Australia 'Peter Murphy's new book is a bold, courageous and unintimidated attempt to offer a fresh perspective on the role, contribution and nature of the institution of the academy. It combines historical analysis with ideological critique, statistical data and academic performance against the background of the changing cultural and philosophical trends that have shaped individuals and practices over the last forty years. Murphy argues for a new kind of university: resourceful, entrepreneurial and creative, an institution that will challenge conformism and conformity with new ideas, solid knowledge of the past and openness to innovation and critique. This is a very opportune book: it exposes the current stagnation but at the same time envisions new horizons. It is also a necessary book - for all academics, students and governments. It shapes a new cultural and epistemic paradigm for the function of the most important Western institution of learning and acting.' Vrasidas Karalis, Sir Nicholas Laurantus Professor of Modern Greek, University of Sydney, Australia 'If there is a myth which universities have woven around themselves, it is that they are centres of innovation and world-changing research. Peter Murphy's excellent new book both punctures those illusions and provides a sober picture of the many failings of the contemporary university. He demonstrates that the amount of ground-breaking research achieved by universities is declining just as the cost of research is ballooning, and that what universities stand for now is stultifying bureaucratic regimentation. Murphy demonstrates that this can only be reversed if the dinosaurs of today can become fleet-of-foot small mammals. A brilliant book which needs to be read by our political leaders.' Gregory Melleuish, Associate Professor of History and Politics, University of Wollongong, Australia 'This book is going to intrigue some people, amuse others and infuriate a few. The debate it deserves is going to be fun.' *Campus Morning Mail*

About the Author

Peter Murphy is Adjunct Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at La Trobe University, Australia.. He is the author of *The Collective Imagination*, and *Civic Justice* and co-author of *Dialectic of Romanticism, Creativity and the Global Knowledge Economy*, *Global Creation*, and *Imagination*.

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