

Rektorka Oxfordské univerzity bude debatovat o politické roli univerzity

Centrum pro studium politické filosofie, etiky a náboženství FF UK zve na veřejnou akademickou debatu na téma *Politická role univerzity?* Účastníky debaty, která proběhne 21. března v prostorách Nové scény Národního divadla v Praze, budou Louise Richardson, rektorka Oxford University, Péter Balázs, ředitel Center for European Neighborhood Studies na Středoevropské univerzitě v Budapešti, Stefan Collini, profesor literatury a dějin idejí na Cambridge University, a Tomáš Halík, profesor na Filozofické fakultě UK.

Vstup je volný, bez registrace. Jednacím jazykem je angličtina, tlumočení bude zajištěno do sluchátek.

Political Role of Universities?

New Stage ("Nová scéna") of the National Theatre

21st of March 2018, 17:00

Our speakers will be:

- Louise Richardson, vice-chancellor of Oxford University
- Péter Balázs, Director of the Center for European Neighborhood Studies, CEU
- Stefan Collini, professor of intellectual history at Cambridge University
- Tomáš Halík, Faculty of Arts, Charles University

The Centre for Philosophy, Ethics and Religion invites you to a high-profile academic discussion about the political role of universities in contemporary society. Universities are nowadays in an ambivalent position. On one hand, they seem to

be very successful: there has never been so many of them, they cover a vast field of subjects and the proportion of population entering university has never been higher. On the other hand, the role of experts and academics is ruthlessly undermined in the public sphere and universities feel that they are under increasing pressure to justify their place in society. Yet while the question of academic or social role of universities (the moral role of higher education was abandoned long time ago) is reasonably well-covered, we want to open a new topic – their political role.

The political role of universities plays a big part in several contemporary controversies. The discussions concerning the curriculum of US colleges back in the seventies and eighties or the contemporary struggle of several academic institutions in Central and Eastern Europe to keep their independence are just two possible examples. So what can the political role of university be? We do not want to equate the political with the social or the public. Therefore, we do want to look for a specific role of universities in contemporary politics. Perhaps there is none, and there should be no such role. Or perhaps universities are vital for the preservation of liberal democracies. Whatever will be the outcome, we believe that discussion on topic is crucial in contemporary political environment. Therefore, we would like to invite you to the following discussion.

This occasion is the first one in a series of academic discussions organized by the Centre for Philosophy, Ethics and Religion at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. The Centre will organize up to three discussions each year.

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