# [Elite] Universities: The Cradle of Pending Anomalies in Various Forms? DEI + Social Media /ai as "Explosive Crisis"

**Teodora Ivanuša[1]\*and Matjaž Mulej[2]**

[1]Tenured professor, University in Maribor, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, Slovenia

[2]Professor emeritus, Founding President of Iascys; Norbert Wiener Gold Medal Awardee 2019, University in Maribor, Faculty of Economics & Business, Slovenia

**ABSTRACT**

The current era revealed the true dimensions of DEI in combination with influence of social media / AI in the sacred, secret/untouchable environments of [elite] Universities and beyond. These interpretation / short commentary / diagnostics – using 103 years old Bogdanov's Tektology (*Tektologia*) – of Crisis management/tackling DEI is unique, revolutionary/controversial in some selected viewpoint, and beyond the state of art. Arguably, absolute perfection is out of reach (=inevitable existence of some uncertainties and nescience) and will always remain such.

"*There are no Secrets Better Kept Than the Secrets That Everybody Guesses.*" G. B. Shaw.

**\*Corresponding author**
Teodora Ivanuša, Tenured Professor, University in Maribor, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, Slovenia.

## Introduction
"O Tempora, O Mores "(Oh the times! Oh, the customs!), Cicero. Commentary beyond the l'art pour l'art, because the responsibility flows upward. Although the research papers are preferably written in the IMRaD form and the mantra of research reports is to persuade the readers to trust the paper findings, this discussion will take a different structure/form [1]. The proposal for the readers is not to agree with any of it, but to take the hard part of building their own perspectives. In the paper several hints, references, questions, statements, which, on the first real make perfect sense, but only through a more holistic observation expos their blind spots and limited frames.

## Methodology
Beside Bogdanov's Tektology as a methodological foundation, provocative operation "PO" by Edward de Bono: a technique that requires lateral thinking (= making deliberately wrong or unreasonable statements – provocations – in which something you take for granted about the situation isn't true), has been used and here's the continuation [2,3].

## Commentary
### There is Now globally
- An official tendency to measure quality of knowledge of a country with the number of higher education graduates, and hence
- **A concept called DEI:** 'diversity, equity, inclusion program' in the times of smaller numbers of potential students, including the elite Universities
- Growing application of artificial intelligence, including the danger of artificial rather than real knowledge, creativity, social responsibility, and innovation, leading to Innovative, Sustainable and Socially Responsible SOCIETY, enabling humankind's way out from the current global social and economic crisis.

The current era revealed the true dimensions of DEI in combination with influence of social media in the sacred, secret/untouchable environments of elite Universities and beyond. While Youth is literally crying out for purpose and direction, social media and DEI quietly assume the role of false prophet, promising long lost everlasting justice, and righteousness. Social networks and artificial intelligence are teachers, friends, partners, comforters, plaintiffs, complainants and judges = complete alienation of the programmed generation to the world of the intangible and complete absence of sanctions/taking responsibility. Such "lethal" merger (DEI + social media) turns out to be the ad most prominent in universities campuses reflecting in poorest overall knowledge and skills outcomes.

Genderless (Gender Pronouns Can Be Tricky on Campus. Harvard Is Making Them Stick. The push for personal pronouns like "they/them" and "ze/hir" can ignite a power struggle in college classrooms), psyopless mass, dressed in and guided by destruction of existing i.e. the epitomy of dystopia. Where equality is heretic and equity divine salvation. And less people forget: plagiarism (i.e. ex-President of Harvard; generated scientific essays by AI etc.) is celebrated (Who is the actual author?; Authors in AI disguise…) and daltonism (the importance of race, where quotas are important rather than the actual knowledge, skills and excellence of individuals, i.e. Boeing, Jaguar, Bud Weiser, Armed

service, Secret service, Olympics, Universities, Governments DEI commitment…) is lacking. Efforts fighting one-sidedness and fictitious expertise are very necessary.

**The Slogan:** "Diversity and meritocracy: a marriage made in hell?" sounds like an addictive mantra, celebrating the victory of mass mediocrity…

DEI can also mean - Destroy, Eradicate et Impera - with latent residua of sulphuric rain (Sodom and Gomorrah…) at the autonomous ground of Alma Mater.

**"Diversity and Meritocracy:** a bitter divorce creating hell?" [4,5].

University creation of Youth (=future educated elites) led/chased by social media and AI, being chosen by Identity and tendency to rule/imperare (both DEI) not Merritt = perfect, apathetic transformation of already complicated: complex/complexity is yet to come. It is plausible to conclude that Complexity theory may help since it restores the principles of General Systems theory (based on Tectonics) after the concept of requisite holism through interdisciplinary cooperation has essentially lost the competitive struggle with DEI/advanced Technologies' danger of narrow specialization.

"Crisis of Plenty" cuddled by all-encompassing hedonism.
Socrates & Plato & Aristotle= "The Gang of Three" and their Ethics, Deontology is forgotten fairytale dwelling in the ancient notes of the past.

It sems like every scientific discussion about DEI + social media / AI ends up on the (high)way to Voltaire's (François-Marie d'Arouet 1694-1778) Magnum Opus: Candid … *All is not for the best and that this is not the best of all possible worlds; We must cultivate our garden".*

The denial of the best of all worlds is a critical commentary of Gottfried Willem Leibniz (1646-1716) and his solution to the problem of evil. Leibniz thought that: "*Our world is the best of all possible worlds*". Evil exists by the fact that it is a necessary part of every possible whole. If world without moral or natural evil would have been better that this one, then God would have created a world without these evils ... But even He could not abolish what Leibniz calls "*Metaphysical Evil*". Hence, moral and natural evil exists because they contribute to the realization of a greater good or the prevention of a greater evil.

Sounds pretty much close if not like Second law of thermodynamics = entropy and systemic efforts to slowdowns [6].

**Complexity theory developed five basic streams of Systems theory and Cybernetics**
as a Mathematical discipline it would fall into stream 1, as discipline about interdisciplinary treatment of complex phenomena into stream 3, if it has a mathematical basis, or stream 5, if it has a philosophical one [7-9].

In addition, let's step back and recall facts about cybernetic systems by type of feedback loop: (1) automatic, (2) homeostatic, and (3) cybernetic.
Positive & Negative Feedback and Mutual Causal Loops:
**Negative:** absence of deviation; stabilizer of the system,
**Positive:** mismatch (behaviour: intended performance); initiator of modification.
/…/ within highly complex systems, positive feedback can modify the goal(s), and hence the aim(s), of the overall system, itself [10,11].

Circulus Vitiosus? Mutual Causal Loops = Cybernetic Stability (System: Environment).
Feedback generates information, innovates novelty = elements within a system become informed and differentiated = can grow and evolve …
In essence, Universities should return to the ergodic system, since it is the only one that "captures" (in its definition), development, not just returning to an equilibrium state [ibd].

**Crises of Form by Alexander Bogdanov**
Based on the research and use of Bogdanov's Essays in Tektology– Crises of Forms (as a methodological foundation), we used Bogdanov's consideration of two types of crises: ''Freezing'' and ''Explosive''. The ''Freezing'' brings equilibrium through crises resolution, and the ''Explosive'' destroy systems. Using the study of Tektology, one can not only study the crisis but also predict its occurrence. Some classes are collapsing, while the remaining ones are more viable. Such interpretation – using Bogdanov's Tektology – of Crisis management/tackling DEI is unique, revolutionary/controversial in some selected viewpoint, and beyond the state of art. Arguably, absolute perfection is out of reach (=inevitable existence of some uncertainties and nescience) and will always remain such.

We should remind readers that we will quote certain parts of the Tektology directly, but in its entirety, we will only outline certain parts that describe crises of forms. Reading the whole Tektology is highly recommended. In addition, no AI was used in preparing this short article / commentary.

**Crisis:** "Determination, sharp transition, disturbance in continuity. For Tektology, as a science it's insufficient to have a simple statement: Crisis is a change in organizational form. In mathematics, "magnitudes" are considered as increasing and decreasing; both are continuous processes which do not have a character of crises. But two of their moments represent real crises: they are the origination of magnitudes and their destruction." [ibd.].

We should return to a "generally-tektological notion of crises. It was expressed thus far as a "change in organizational form." This form represents a totality of connections among elements. Consequently, a change in form can only consist either in a destruction of any former connections or in the appearance of new connections, or in both. But this means that the essence of crises lies in the formation or violation of complete disingressions." [ibd.].

So, in the life of an organism "one of the most important crises corresponds to that elusive and hardly distinguishable moment, when its ascending line is replaced by descending line: the preponderance of vital assimilation over dissimilation, to yield to their converse correlation. A crisis is a kind of violation of continuity. This would have been an insolvable riddle, but Tektology makes it solvable by substituting in the place of one continuity- two, with changing correlations. Such in the general method solving all "arthrological" problems i.e. problems connected with interruptions in complexes of experience." [ibd.].

Types of Crises: "first type we will denote as "crises C," i.e. conjunctive or joining; second as "crises D," the break-up the boundaries; and any disintegration of a complex originates from crisis D. It is easy to distinguish these two types abstractly, in thought; but when we begin to study phenomena concretely, as they are encountered in experience, it turns out that the problem

is incomparably more complex exactly because simple crises do not exist: in fact, each crisis present a chain of elementary crises of both types." [ibd.].

"Crisis is a disturbance of equilibrium, and at the same time a transition to some new equilibrium. The latter can be considered as a limit to changes which occur during crisis, or as a limit to its tendencies. If we know the tendencies of a crisis and those conditions under which they unfold, then is possible to predict the result of crisis – that limiting equilibrium to which it tends."

Both outcomes of crises D - regeneration and destruction – do "not represent an unconditional opposition to each other. The first is never complete and precise, but is always accompanied by partial destruction, though at times a very small one. The second goes on only to a definitive depth and stops on these or other elements of the former whole, i.e., on partial complexes, whose damage is overcome in this or that way by a corresponding regeneration." [ibd.].

From the universality of the concept still another important consequence arises, a conclusion about "crises of different "degrees or orders"": Crisis of Crisis; Crisis of second order. In the progress of any revolution, it is possible to capture similar "turning points" where tempo, direction and correlation of organizing processes creating a revolution change, these are also secondary crises. Evidently, the progress of crises of the second order may, in turn, contain crises of the third order etc." [ibd.].

To be perfectly clear, crises of higher orders cannot be captured by the usual methods or perception but are discovered by scientific calculation or juxtaposition.

**Final Remarks**
Outside cyber-systemic community, many regard science as a neutral specialized description of the objective/given reality; they overlook the influence of the observer and the ensuing relativity of the description and management of reality. Yet, the proposed architecture of such discussion / issues will / should not be another: "The inexplicable neglect" of Alexander Bogdanov and his powerful paradigm of General Science of Organization: Tektologia – Tektology. Entropy tends to result from one-sidedness; it is the natural tendency of everything to disappear / become something else.

While is more than evident that the 21st Century urgently needs cyber-systemic behaviour (practicing systemic thinking and use of systems theories) in a direct way or via socially responsible approaches, such behaviour is still shockingly absent or marginalised within educational system, including universities curricula. Therefore, our commentary is not concerned with the methodological, but with the content-related epistemological aspect.

Societies need specific organisational processes in situation with no traditional leadership and hierarchies. Namely, closed systems collapse into chaos and tend towards decline, whereas systems open to structured environment spontaneously generate order and tend towards innovation [12].

It is quite feasible to claim that the existing educational systems/ practices have become obsolete: too many facts and too little creativity and cooperation. It is also natural to assume that such systems will collapse, but currently still maintains their faulty and idiosyncratic status quo.

Therefore, humankind needs a revolutionary reformation, regeneration with a new doctrine: a new science for routine in educational systems [13]. Any negative effects of such efforts can be offset by creating synergies with the Law of Requisite Holism, which offers a realistic pathway towards achieving socially responsible educational systems [14].

The crisis of abundance (Crisis of Plenty / Affluence) is unfortunately an inhibitor and not a trigger for the emergence, description, articulation of epistemological need in educational systems (in our chosen aspect). For Bogdanov "The objectivity of the physical reality has no basis in epistemology, but it has a sociological basis, and is a product, a reflection of the observed educational organization. "/.../ Both physical and psychical knowledge are the products of long historical developments, the gradual, but inexorable expansion of social experience, which has produced the growing complexity, depth and precision of humanity's organization of experience." Bogdanov [ibid.] argued that "all advances in knowledge are based on "substitution": Knowledge is organised by cognitive model through substitution; where substitution begins with language."

In the Digital Age, where humanity's virtual transcendence into the digital ecosystem occurred, one wonders in the natural ecosystem: *Ecce Homo*? … And since / in the absence of humans, the epistemological need of humans / humanity remains In Absentia; and the tectonic shift in educational systems is only a Theorem, where *Ouroborus* will not be just a metaphor… It seems that humans / humanity from the virtual digital ecosystem realistically forgives humans / humanity in its - physical - natural ecosystem; at the same time, humans / humanity critically pathologically ignores the fact that the rapidly advancing destructive process of this feedback loop has begun (way back when…), breaks the natural ecosystem (especially at the university campuses) and has almost (already) ideal conditions / circumstances to become "*Perpetuum mobile*"…, destroying humankind of today.

Finally, inoculated anger/rage (even Seneca himself would be perplexed upon) and the *hunger* to destroy (among Youth at the Universities) is sadly a pathognomonic sign of an Explosive Crisis, diagnosed by Bogdanov's Tektology. In addition, free spirit, freedom of speech, Enlightenment (Descartes, Locke, Newton, Kant, Goethe, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Adam Smith …) has been confused and replaced by totalitarianism, radicalism, dogmatism, cancel(lation) culture, woke (yelling) while we all are yearning for the opposite.

Yet, dear fellow Professors: don't say You suffer the lack of knowledge, tools, you named. Hence (if so), go back 100 years or more, or less as did we.
"*Quod Nocet, Saepe Docet"* - *"What harms, often teaches"*. Does it?
Action must result.

**Reference**
1. Sollaci LB, Pereira MG (2004) The Introduction, Methods, Results and Discussion (IMRAD) Structure: A Fifty-Year Survey. Journal of the Medical Library Association 92: 360-364.
2. Bogdanov A (1922) Essays in Tektology. The System Inquiry Series 8: 229-265.
3. De Bono E (1972) PO: a device for successful thinking. New York: Simon & Schuster https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1594809.Po.
4. Diversitas (2024) Diversity and meritocracy – a Marriage

Made in Hell?. https://diversitas.co/trending-topics/diversity-and-meritocracy.

5. Ivanuša T (2024) Personal quote.

6. Hutchinson K (1981) W.J. M. Rankine and the rise of thermodynamics. The British Journal for the History of Science 14: 1-26.

7. Trappl R (2004) EMCSR, Cybernetics and Systems. Vienna: Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies https://www.osgk.ac.at/emcsr/04/publications.html.

8. Mulej M, Potočan V (2006) Complexity theory belongs to several streams of systems theory 39: 44-53.

9. Umpleby AS, Lepskiy VE, Medvedeva TA (2018) Recent Developments in Cybernetic Studies. Moscow: Epistemology and Philosophy of Science https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.gwu.edu/dist/d/257/files/2016/11/2018-Umpleby-Lepskiy-Medvedeva-2f7teld.pdf.

10. Wiener N (1948) Cybernetics or Control and Communication in the Animal and the Machine. New York: John Wiley & Sons https://ia801701.us.archive.org/26/items/cybernetics-or-communication-and-control-in-the-animal-and-the-machine-norbert-wiene-ocr/Cybernetics%20or%20Communication%20and%20Control%20in%20the%20Animal%20and%20the%20Machine%20-%20Norbert%20Wiene_OCR.pdf.

11. Mulej M (1979) Creative Work and Dialectical Systems Theory. Celje: Development Center https://plus.cobiss.net/cobiss/si/sl/bib/mnzrs/9306625.

12. Bar-Yam T, Lynch O, Bar-Yam Y (2018) The Inherent Instability of Disordered System. arXiv https://arxiv.org/abs/1812.00450.

13. Ivanuša T (2013) The Cybernetics of Security and Defence Systems. New York: Nova Science Publishers https://novapublishers.com/shop/the-cybernetics-of-security-and-defense-systems/.

14. Mulej M, Kajzer S (1998) Ethics of Interdependence and The Law of Requisite Holism. In Rebernik, M & Mulej, M. (eds.), Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on Linking Systems Thinking, Innovation, Quality, Entrepreneurships and Environment 129-40.