

SHOT Annual Meeting 2023

**Proposal for “open session” at the SHOT conference held 25-29 October 2023 at Long Beach, submitted 14 March 2023**

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Universities as locally situated knowledge-making infrastructures  
embedded in perpetually changing global political economies

Both old and robust, universities have become powerful devices for making, evaluating, and disseminating many kinds of knowledge, including through higher education. Sometimes autonomous, universities also have served different masters. Increasingly, universities are evaluated through neo-liberal lenses of measurable, managed productivity, even profitability, defined by others, including clerics, policymakers, and politicians, requiring that universities address so-called grand societal challenges, expecting academics to specify solutions that can be implemented quickly. Universities continue to face many critical dilemmas, from funding to public trust, questioning what counts as knowledge, by whom and why. For centuries they have made knowledges used for both systemic good and structural harm, from inclusion to oppression, along with knowledge about all those processes, from implementing to dismantling them.

As we face intersecting global problems of global warming, pandemic, pollution, and inequality we want to re-examine the changing relationship between learning, knowledge-making, and society in changing global political economies through the lens of the apparatus called universities. We welcome submissions that examine complexities and variation over time and place in the techniques and technologies of the following strategic academic practices:

Collegiality, citizenship, academic freedom, and governance

Quality, productivity, profitability;

cultures, assessments, rankings, and precarities;

Who studies and who teaches: access, expertise, careers, and subject-positioning;

University management regimes, organizational taxonomies, and platforms;

Circulating, archiving, and publishing knowledge claims;

Knowledge-making, epistemic politics, and canons;

Pedagogies, life-long learning, and degrees;

Infrastructures, sites, and resources;

How are universities used as crossroads?

Quagmire and utopia genres;

Perpetually re-imagining university futures.