

Higher Education for Sustainable Development?

*Associate Professor **Claus Holm**, Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Denmark*

Abstract:

It has been argued that the issue of sustainable development constitutes a fresh and challenging frame of reference for thinking about everything a university is and does. In this presentation it will be argued that given the relevance of this discourse of sustainable development for universities we can also identify four main answers to this challenge. The thesis is that one of these, one of the answers, named “lifelong learning skills for a resilient life”, seems to establish itself as a new and still more dominant answer to this challenge. This new answer is not unchallenged by established and other ideas about the universities, but the new ideal: the ideal of the individual, the community and the world is indeed a new and fresh idea that higher education could be designed according to.