

Roundtable

Roundtables may be on any theme, but should be aimed at creating a discursive environment around a central question or series of questions. Roundtables should be invitational, allowing discussion throughout the session led by a small number of key participants. 60 minutes will be allowed.

Please contact the organisers as soon as possible to let us know the theme of your roundtable to assist in the planning of the conference.

Name, Institutional Affiliation and Email of Corresponding Author (for correspondence with SAI)	Professor André Keet Chair of Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation Nelson Mandela University, South Africa Andre.Keet@mandela.ac.za
Title of Roundtable	Critical Connections: Sociologies of Transformation and University Studies
Abstract (300 words) including central questions for discussion	<p>Universities, as social institutions and social systems, individually and collectively, are of key interest to sociology. Not simply because of the challenges facing the ‘global social’ to which universities are required to respond, but for the reason that sociology has an epistemic stake in transforming itself whilst contributing to transformative practices within higher education. This concern encompasses the political economy of universities; the social structure of the academy; the mapping of social space and academic status; the distribution of recognitions, reward and sanctions; the ‘streaming’ of students and staff; institutional cultures; the neoliberal revolution; and so on. In essence, sociologies of higher education transformation attempt at providing novel interpretive schemes for renewing our cultural traditions and practices in socially just directions.</p> <p>This roundtable explores the connections between sociologies of transformation and the emerging field of critical university studies as ways of building networks, collaborations and solidarities across various intellectual, disciplinary, socio-cultural and geographical contexts to bring different efforts to retreat the university in conversation with one another.</p> <p>Su-ming Khoo responds to Keet’s challenges – to sociology’s ‘epistemic stake in transforming itself, whilst contributing to transformative practices’. The transformative demand as addressed to sociological research is a demand for solidarity through epistemic pluralization, simultaneously parochializing/de-parochializing research, questioning and unsettling the epistemological and ethical bases of ‘research’, ‘theory’, ‘data’ and ‘partnerships’ (Ndlovu-Gatsheni 2018; Bhambra 2014).</p>

	<p>Dr Dina Belluigi responds to the exchange by exploring ways to connect and possibilities for all-Ireland-South Africa connection around Critical Higher Education Studies. We have been making different connections between scholars and practitioners who share similar concern and drive and the intention of the roundtable is to use the space towards establishing strong links for critical studies in the transformation of higher education, and what this means for solidarity, justice, social formations and knowledge formations.</p>
<p>Lead participant names, affiliations and email addresses</p>	<p>Professor André Keet Chair of Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation Nelson Mandela University, South Africa Andre.Keet@mandela.ac.za</p> <p>Su-ming Khoo School of Political Science and Sociology NUI Galway suming.khoo@nuigalway.ie</p> <p>Dina Belluigi, Higher Education Studies, School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work The Queen’s University of Belfast d.belluigi@qub.ac.uk</p>
<p>Keywords (3-4)</p>	<p>Critical Higher Education Studies, transformation, Ireland, South Africa</p>
<p>Theme</p>	<p>◦Connecting Sociology with the political economy of higher education</p>