

Roars segnala un articolo di Ben Martin, noto professore di Science & Technology Policy Studies all'Università del Sussex, intitolato "What's happening to our universities?". Un articolo che si domanda come mai, proprio quando gli studi aziendali sottolineano i vantaggi delle organizzazioni "orizzontali", le università proseguono la loro trasformazione in strutture sempre più verticistiche, burocratiche e autoritarie. Segue un abstract dell'articolo comparso su Prometheus, 34:1, 7-24, 2016: "In recent decades, many universities have been moving in the direction of a more hierarchical and centralised structure, with top-down planning and reduced local autonomy for departments. Yet the management literature over this period has stressed the numerous benefits of flatter organisational structures, decentralisation and local autonomy for sections or departments. What might explain this paradox? And why have academics remained strangely quiet about this, meekly accepting their fate? The paper critically examines the dangers of centralised top-down management, increasingly bureaucratic procedures, teaching to a prescribed formula, and research driven by assessment and performance targets, illustrating these with a number of specific examples. It discusses a number of possible driving forces of these worrying developments, and concludes by asking whether academics may be in danger of suffering the fate of the boiled frog". (Fonte: Red.ne Roars 08-04-18)