

Higher Education, Place and Communities of Learning

Forum 48

The background of the slide is a painting. It depicts a large, dark, steel truss bridge spanning a wide river. The bridge's structure is complex, with many beams and supports. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a hazy, blue sky. Several tall buildings are prominent, including one with a very sharp, pointed top. The river in the foreground is calm, reflecting the bridge and the city. On the left bank, there are some buildings and trees. On the right bank, there is a dense line of green trees. The overall style is somewhat impressionistic, with soft colors and visible brushstrokes.

Metropolitan Regions and the Future of Anchor Institutions: Higher Education Adapts

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Anchors and Research Universities

- ❑ Higher education's research universities are **physical**. In metropolitan regions in which transportation/transit routes are abundant, higher education is **accessible** must be **integrated** with the urban fabric of metropolitan areas.
- ❑ To be integrated means to be **'on the grid'** with the city's streetscape, with the overlapping neighborhoods/communities and transportation networks, and interactivity with the city.
- ❑ This type of anchor institution, then, is part of the metropolis, not separated or walled off from it and, consequently, not of the type that does research "on" the community but one that **partners with** the community in the pursuit of knowledge.

On the Grid

- **Metropolitan regions as economic growth engines and centers of innovation and entrepreneurship depend on both mobile and fixed investments of capital and labor.**
- **Research universities are less mobile than most assets.**
- **Higher education's boundaries are fluid and interactive.**

Anchor Institutions in Metro Regions

- Physical presence; not “footloose”
- Bound by proximity to clients (e.g., hospitals) or charter (e.g., municipalities) or clients (e.g., neighborhood stores)
- MOOCs, on-line will not replace research universities
- Engaged, embedded, ‘fully vested’
- Seamless Grid, binding the Anchor Institutions to the Metro Region
- Communities of Learning, Discovery, Commitment





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Amy Casey
"Allies"