At each particular historical moment, the university appears as a heavy and rigid structure resisting changes, whereas, throughout time, it has actually undergone profound transformation. Often such changes have been drastic and almost always provoked by factors external to the university, be they of a religious, political or economic nature. This book explores the nature and dynamics of the transformation that the university is undergoing today. It argues that some of the projects of reform currently under way are so radical that the question of the future of the university may well turn into the question of whether the university has a future. A specific feature of this inquiry is the realisation that questioning the future of the university involves questioning its past as well.

"[Santos] successfully targets the idea of cognitive justice through these two lenses while exploring the possibility of alternative sciences and the right of non–Western cultures to express their contribution to the present status of knowledge in universities and to modernity with its philosophical, political and intellectual aspects. [...] This text provides arguments supplemented by footnotes and anecdotes, offering the reader examples of the epistemology of the social sciences and enlightening proposals about the future of the university. References to social scientists offer unique understanding to students and educators interested in critical thinking and decolonization."

Azimeh Takrimi

Farhangian University; Journal of Educational Thought, 2019

Boaventura de Sousa Santos is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Coimbra, Portugal, and Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. He received an LLM and JSD from Yale University, USA, and his Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, from McGill University, Canada. He is Director Emeritus of the Center for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra, and has written and published widely on the issues of globalization, sociology of law and the state, epistemology, social movements and the World Social Forum. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Science and Technology Prize of Mexico in 2010 and the Kalven Jr. Prize of the Law and Society Association in 2011. His most recent project, "ALICE: Leading Europe to a New Way of Sharing the World Experiences", was funded by an Advanced Grant of the European Research Council. His publications in English include *Toward a New Common Sense*: Law, Science and Politics in the Paradigmatic Transition (1995); Toward a New Legal Common Sense. Law, globalization, and emancipation (2002); Cognitive Justice in a Global World: Prudent Knowledges for a Decent Life (2007); Epistemologies of the South: Justice against Epistemicide (2014); If God Were a Human Rights Activist (2015); and The End of the Cognitive *Empire: The Coming of Age of Epistemologies of the South* (2018).

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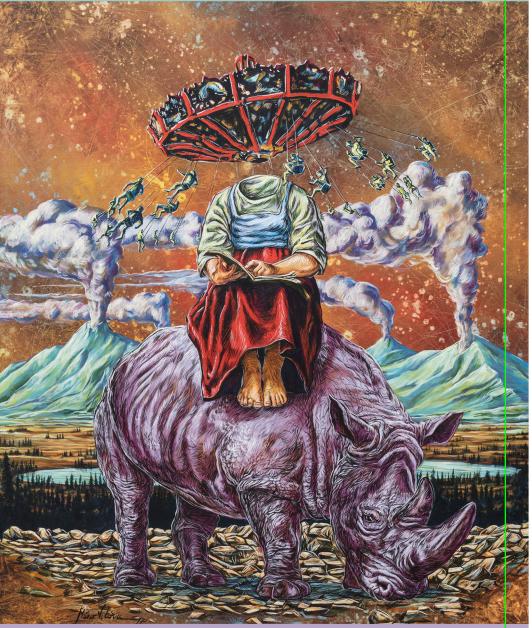


Decolonising the University

Boaventura de Sousa Santos

DECOLONISING THE UNIVERSITY

The Challenge of Deep Cognitive Justice



BOAVENTURA DE SOUSA SANTOS