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### **University, *res publica* and slow education**

The concept university originally referred to a specific, qualified assembly or *universitas*. The medieval term *universitas magistrorum et scholarium* indicated an assembly or community of masters and students that were preoccupied with the public search for truth. From its origin the university thus refers to a kind of public gathering with education at its heart. It is challenging to look from this perspective where and how university takes place today. The lecture hall and the seminar room for instance are about making things public and gathering a public of students around a *res publica*. Drawing on these past and present examples, the presentation attempts to articulate how university education is organized as a collective/public practice. The university as the name for those public assemblies with their potentially disruptive practices is of course dangerous for all those who have particular interests. Perhaps this explains the ongoing attempts to tame or neutralize the university – from inside or outside, by institutional or societal strategies.