

**Introduction to a lecture by Ulrike Felt at Litla-Torg, Tuesday 25  
September 3 p.m, by Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University  
of Iceland**

**Fyrirlestur Ulrike Felt er annar fyrlesturinn í fyrirlestrarröð Háskóla  
Íslands, *heilindi í háskólarannsóknum***

Dr Ulrike Felt, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the University of Iceland, I would like to welcome you all to Ulrike Felt's lecture on the responsibility of universities and their active engagement with society, entitled "A call for an engaged and responsible university: Wishful thinking or feasible practice?"

Let me start by introducing our speaker, Dr Ulrike Felt. Ulrike Felt is professor of Science and Technology Studies and head of the interfaculty research platform "Responsible Research and Innovation in Academic Practice" at the University of Vienna. Since 2014 she has served as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Vienna.

Dr. Felt earned her PhD in Physics from the University of Vienna in 1983 and her habilitation in Social Studies of Science and Sociology of Science in 1997. Before joining the University of Vienna as an academic staff member she worked at CERN in Geneva from 1983 to

1988. In the course of her career, she has been guest professor and invited researcher at numerous prestigious universities including ETH Zurich, University of Antwerp and Harvard University.

Dr. Felt's research focuses on shifting research cultures and institutional transformation as well as questions of governance and public participation in contemporary techno-scientific democracies. Her areas of study cover life science, medicine and biomedicine, nanotechnology, nuclear energy and sustainability research as well as the social sciences. Dr. Felt has published widely on these topics, but has also produced a number of policy reports at the European level. From 2002 to 2007 she was editor-in-chief of the journal *Science, Technology & Human Values* and is a current member of numerous editorial boards of social science journals. Dr. Felt led the editorial team for the Handbook of Science and Technology Studies, published by MIT Press 2017. Since 2017 she has been President of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology.

Dr Ulrike Felt, it is our great honour to welcome you to the University of Iceland. We are very grateful to have you here and look forward to hearing your presentation on engaged and responsible universities. Modern universities are complex institutions juggling many roles simultaneously and with many different demands made of them. Universities are not only responsible for conducting research and educating students; they are also increasingly expected to serve society and industry. All these roles involve ethical obligations and can conflict with each other. It is therefore of the utmost importance that people working at universities fully consider these expectations in order to best fulfil their ethical responsibilities. Dr Felt, your lecture is a contribution towards this process. Thank you for taking the time to discuss this important topic with us here today.

Dr Ulrike Felt, the floor is yours.