



*An irreverent critical lexicon of
academic life and culture*

Keywords;

For Further Consideration and Particularly Relevant
to Academic Life, &c.

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The university: The very name evokes knowledge, culture, and the magnificently universal ambition at the heart of this essential institution. Bastions of free inquiry and a free society, engines of social transformation and economic progress, enclosed gardens of ennobling reflection and creation, universities encompass the wisdom of the past and the hope of the future. Or do they?

This critical glossary—written by a group of Princeton graduate students and faculty—defines fifty-eight terms common to academic life in a style that will prick both egos and consciences. From “academia” to “vocation,” “canon” to “peer review,” “discipline” to “methodology,” the book scrutinizes the often stultifying structures of modern disciplinary life, calls out a slavish devotion to “knowledge production” as the enemy of thought, and even dissects the notion of “academic excellence.”

Feisty and darkly funny, passionate and deeply insightful, this book raises hard questions about teaching, research, theory, practice, and academic labor. The result is a must-read dispatch from today’s academic trenches—one that is sure to provoke discussion and debate.

A Community of Inquiry is made up of ten students and faculty associated with the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities at Princeton University.

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