

**Debating the Future of University Teaching**

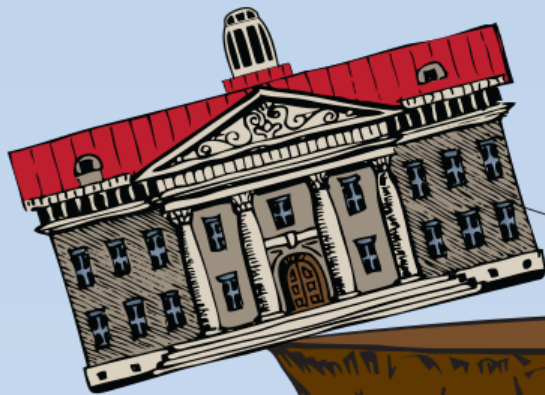
Seventh Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning

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# Resistance, Renewal, Resilience, Retelling: A Session on Thriving

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# Human Barometer

How do you feel about the future of university teaching right now?









# Human Barometer

How do you feel about the future of university teaching right now?



# With your Colleagues...

What drew you to this image?

- Anything from today?
- From your own experiences?
- Is it more a question of general mindset?



# “Teaching and scholarship are about storytelling.”





# A parable of Rabbi Nachman of Breslav



If you believe  
breaking is  
possible, believe  
fixing is possible.



# Meaning and possibility emerge from narrative

- We are social beings
- Knowledge is a matter of competence
- Knowing is a matter of participation
- All good learning is about meaning making



Our teaching narratives are powerful resources.

They lead us, they hold us back.

They empower, they defeat.

What ever control they have, we embody them  
everyday in our practice, our scholarship, our  
research, our creative activity.



# Narratives as Tools

1. What is possible in times of uncertainty?
2. What are we capable of changing?
3. When? Why? How?
4. What's our responsibility to meet this challenge?





# Growing Pains: Rebuilding the FASS first year experience one MENTOR at a time

Challenge, expectations, and grow, grow, grow... at what expense?

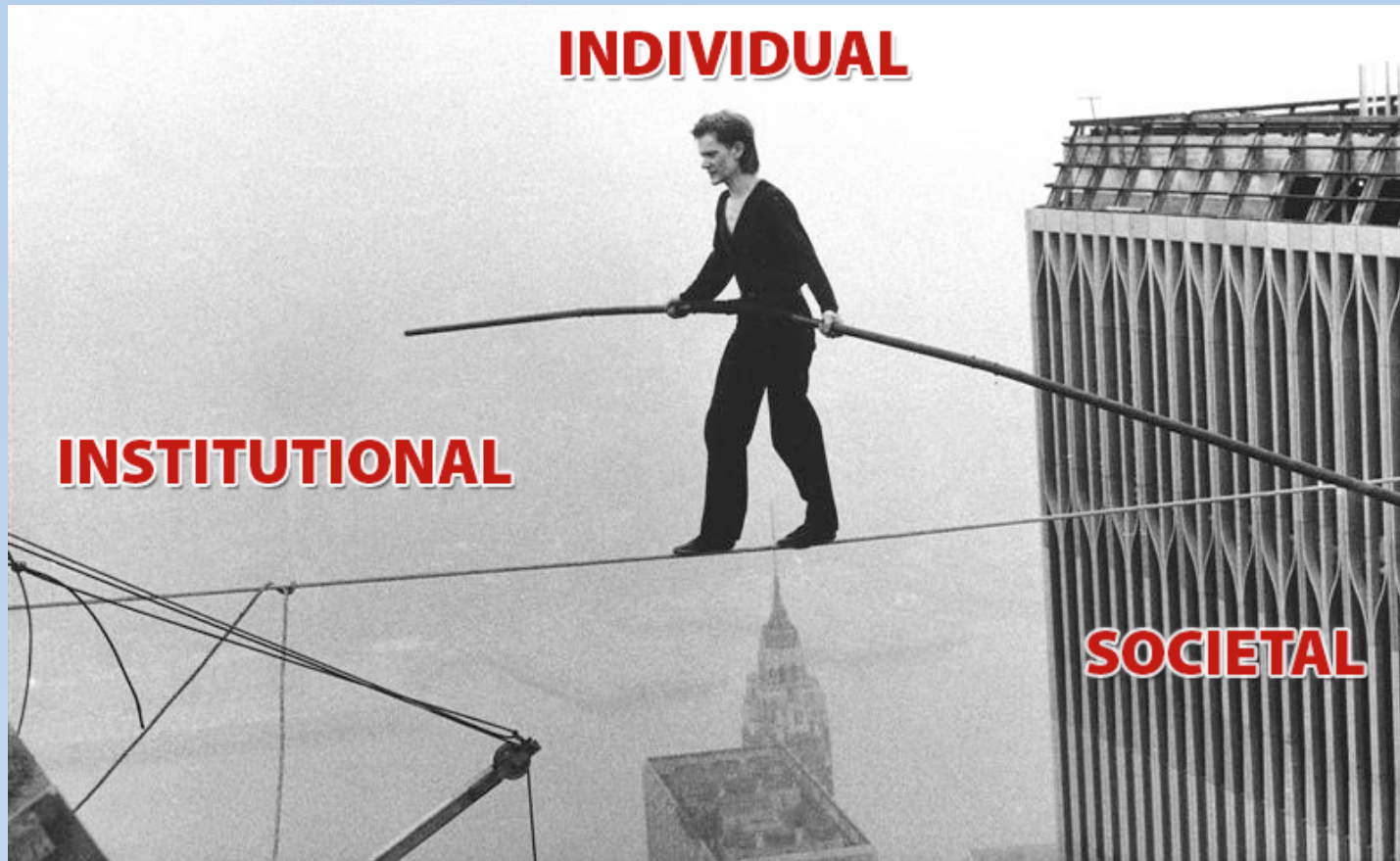


# Take Away

- Work as a collective
- Have a vision
- See the bigger picture
- Entertain possibilities
- Think outwardly
- Acknowledge the narratives at play



# Transformation: On the verge of Peril, Art & Possibility





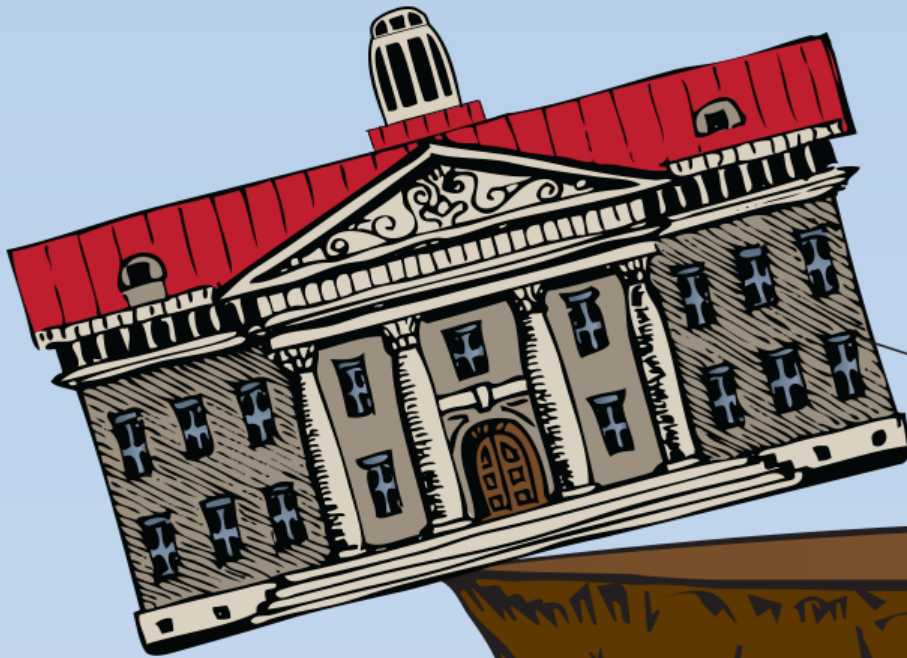
# “What did you do in school today?” vs. “What questions did you ask and pursue in school today?”

- What are the larger purposes for which we are educating?
- When all is said and done, why do we keep doing what we are doing year after year?
- Can the hegemony of business plans be held in check to pedagogical and intellectual truths?

Nash, 2002



Where are  
YOU in this  
picture?

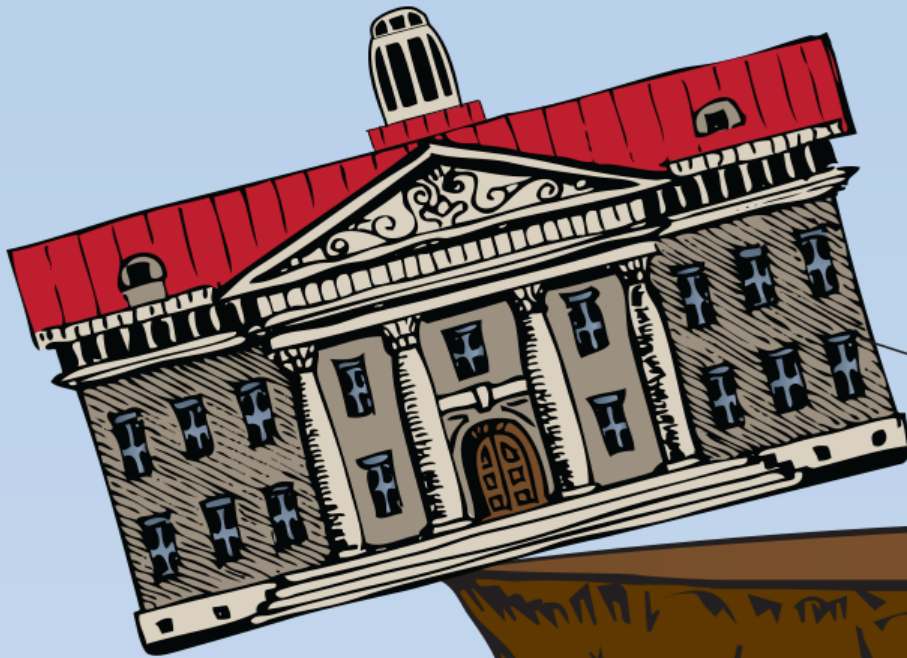


# Guiding Prompts: Reposition

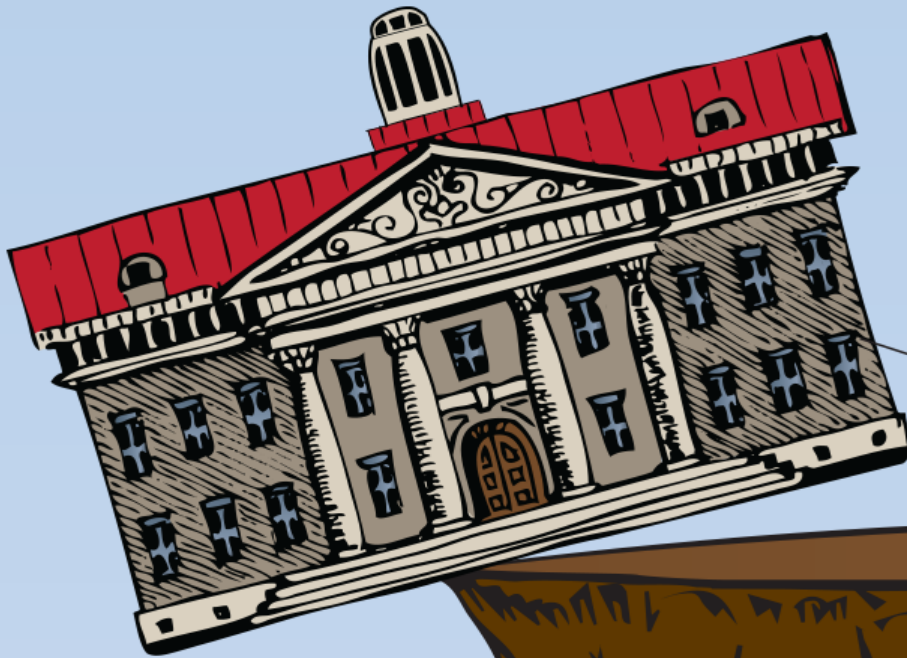
- Who benefits from this picture's point of view? Who doesn't?
- Where is the power to change this narrative?
- What will get us past this impasse and keep us moving forward?



What power  
do you have in  
this narrative?



Take the next  
10 minutes to  
re-imagine and  
re-illustrate this  
narrative



# Guiding Prompts

*What's next?*

*What's worth letting go?*

*What's worth saving?*

- What - or who - is missing from this picture?
- What is outside the frame of this picture?
- What is out of focus?



# The conversation continues.....

Contribute to the collective narrative.  
Finish this statement:

On the verge of...?



# In closing – or opening?

Unlock each other's doors.  
Narratives are key.

