

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/beyond-predatory-peace/>

The speaker discusses how graduate students often seek current hot topics for their research but cautions against merely following trends, as this can lead to "fighting yesterday's war." He emphasizes the importance of long-term thinking and interdisciplinary approaches, highlighting the structural issues within academia that make reform challenging.

Reflecting on his early activism in consumer protection, he shares experiences with the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission, where he initially criticized the appointment of industry insiders, only to later acknowledge their competence and engage in fruitful discussions. He recounts a significant legal case surrounding the dangers of passive smoking, which drew international attention and influenced smoking regulations.

The speaker also delves into his personal life, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and learning through relationships, particularly with his partner Valerie. Throughout a long marriage, they've contributed to each other's intellectual growth, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue.

He expresses optimism for universities, asserting their crucial role in promoting new ideas and societal change. Although he notes challenges such as corporate influence, he believes universities remain vital institutions for innovation and progress. The speaker concludes by reflecting on the importance of collaboration and the impact of younger generations in transforming academia and society, affirming that the collective contributions of students often surpass individual efforts.