Knowledge resistance and other global challenges – in research and education, in the humanities and elsewhere
Obama’s inauguration.
Facts:
Biggest audience

Alternative “facts”:
Biggest audience

Arne Jarrick, GUNi-conference, Barcelona,
November 19th 2018
What is a knowledge society?

A large an exponentially growing stock of knowledge?
Widespread dissemination of knowledge?
Far-reaching knowledge demands on the population?
A knowledge affirming attitude?
Et cetera ...
From insights among minorities to taken-for-granted knowledge among majorities

Et cetera...

Arne Jarrick, GUNi-conference, Barcelona, November 19th 2018
Solid findings by humanist researchers: two examples

History: Homicide in Europe 1200-2012; Eisner 2014

Linguistics: Second language learning among children and adults in Switzerland; Gullberg et al. 2014

From insights among minorities to taken-for-granted knowledge among majorities
Important innovations based on humans experience
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Arne Jarrick, GUNi-conference, Barcelona, November 19th 2018
Important innovations based on humans experience

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Important innovations – > technical patents! – based on humans experiences
Figure 1. Unadjusted Means of Public Trust in Science for Each Survey Year by Political Ideology

Note: Figure shows three-year moving averages for each group, which smooth the patterns overtime.
True, false and mixed news on Twitter 2009-2016
What are the major similarities and dissimilarities between the Humanities and the Sciences in the ways they conduct and present research? Could you give some examples (up to three) of important findings gained in the Humanities? Aside from your own views, how do you think the Humanities are perceived in this respect? And what impact does the perception of the Humanities in comparison to the Sciences have on funding?
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Arne Jarrick, GUNi-conference, Barcelona, November 19th 2018
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Humanities research is the study of humans as social and societal, decision making, reflecting and self-reflecting agents with a unique capacity for cultural change \( \approx \) innovation.

Thus, research in the humanities is not defined by its methods.
Recall the examples

Homicides in Europe (from Eisner 2014)
Plasticity – a point of departure for rapprochement
How to cure knowledge resistance in the long run – my suggestions

Early introduced (primary and secondary school) and repeated (high school, college) training of

- Independence; non-conformity
- Self-distance, dissociation between the person and the issue
- Respect for other’s need of self-esteem
- Suspicion against one’s own hypotheses (falsification)
- Stamina (grit)
- Statistics
- Familiarity with “alien” knowledge domains
Familiarity with "alien" knowledge domains...

... means that all students in all faculties at all universities should be exposed to

Philosophy of science
Textual analysis
Quantitative methods
Academic culture of communication
Scientific ethics
Thank you!