

DERRIDA¹

And so I proceed: what does university responsibility represent? This question presumes that one understands the meaning of “responsibility,” “university” – at least if these two concepts are still separable.

The university, what an idea!

This is not a bad idea, says Kant, opening *The Conflict of the Faculties* (*Der Streit der Fakultäten*, 1798)...

And, in the West, the State would have adopted the concept of this very ingenious machine. And the machine would have worked...

Kant underlines the word ‘creating’: a university is thus *authorized* to have the autonomous power of *creating* titles.

The style of this declaration is not merely one of a certain fiction of origin: the happy idea of the university, one fine day, at some date, passing through someone’s head, with something like the fictive possibility of an anniversary – this is what Kant seems to be evoking here.



WIZARD²

Why, anybody can have a brain. That's a very mediocre commodity. Every pusillanimous creature that crawls on the earth – or slinks through slimy seas has a brain! From the rock-bound coast of Maine to the Sun.... oh - oh, no -- -- ah - Well, be that as it may.



Back where I come from we have universities, seats of great learning-- where men go to become great thinkers.

And when they come out, they think deep thoughts -- and with no more brains than you have.... But! They have one thing you haven't got! A diploma!

Therefore, by virtue of the authority invested in me by the Universitatus Committeatum e pluribus unum,

I hereby confer upon you the honorary degree of Th.D.

SCARECROW
Th.D.?

WIZARD
Yeah -- that...that's Dr. of Thinkology!



¹ Derrida, J. (2004). Mochlos, or the Conflict of the Faculties (J. Plug, Trans.) *Eyes of the University: Right to Philosophy 2* (pp. 82-112). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

² Fleming, V. (1939). *The Wizard of Oz*. USA, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Corp: 101 min.