

How can higher education outcomes build a more equal world?

Chair: Claire Callender

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Higher education makes an immense range of contributions to human societies. As well as the economic and social benefits secured by individual graduates (the outcomes which receive the main attention) it more broadly forms individuals as self-determining agents and generates a great range of collective goods, from community building, knowledge and social-political capability to tolerance and the international understanding that comes from educational mobility. Higher education has the potential to both stratify and equalise, to offer closure or open possibilities: the question is how to ensure that its contributions to the public and common good, including the global common good, are uppermost. The panel will sweep across the economic history of the higher education sector, the public good in contrasting countries and the mobility journey between Western Europe/UK and East Asia/China in exploring higher education's potential contributions to a more equal world.