

# Intrinsic higher education and the threat of the employability mantra

20 April 2023



- 00:11:54 Mercedita Menes: Good evening everyone.
- 00:13:53 Xin Xu: Hello everyone, welcome! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to leave them in the chat area. We will have the Q&A session after Simon's talk.
- 00:14:07 Polina Ivanova: Reacted to "Hello everyone, welc..." with 👍
- 00:40:22 Susan Robertson: It seems to me that an important part of this analysis is what has happened to the idea of meritocracy in the UK HE policy world. I've argued that meritocracy has been altered by neoliberalism.
- 00:41:18 Susan Robertson: Neoliberal meritocracy has flattened out differences. It is now our aspirations and efforts that get us ahead. It is up to us.
- 00:42:34 Susan Robertson: Michael Sandel is reflecting on this same development in the USA context.
- 00:44:21 Susan Robertson:  
<https://compass.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/soc4.13020>
- 00:47:19 Gabriella Hizume: Thanks, Professor Robertson.
- 00:49:59 Rachel Brooks: Do you think there is also a risk of increasing cleavages between politicians and young people/students? My research would suggest - across Europe - many students understand well (and value) the intrinsic purposes of HE.
- 00:53:02 Tania Lima: How can we change this discourse, given that many students have also embraced the narrative of being job-ready and want this? And senior leadership at universities too. Curricula are being changed, courses culled, etc
- 00:57:12 Susan Robertson: But given it is a highly competitive process - the costs of losing are also high, giving rise to anxiety, poor wellbeing, suicide
- 00:58:25 Ronald Barnett: Could the 'critical' function of higher education not be said to straddle BOTH the intrinsic and extrinsic functions? Critical thinking aids both democracy and societal reflexivity. (Both it too has fallen out even of the internal vocabulary of higher education over the past 2 decades.). Ron Barnett
- 00:58:44 Susan Robertson: Will Davies writes about this schizophrenic set of outcomes
- 00:59:30 Susan Robertson: His book Nervous States is excellent on this point.

01:01:14 Eshan Dauhoo: Replying to "His book Nervous Sta..."

Thanks for sharing resources Susan

01:01:33 Susan Robertson: It is not agency as much as the quality of the reflexivity

01:02:03 Mei Li: Former Australian Education Minister Dan Tehan intended to rationalise reduced funding for some Humanities disciplines with "job ready graduate". Simon, what do you think the kind of crisis/risk that mentality in politics of discriminating against Humanities could cause in the purpose of education?

01:02:36 Susan Robertson: Anarchy capitalists have agency; the question is what their agency is directed to.

01:02:47 Simon Ngalomba: Automation will soon change narration of universities preparing job-ready graduates (employable graduates).

01:02:51 Susan Robertson: Wendy Brown's latest book - Nihilism helps us here

01:04:09 CGHE Webinars: Thank you for joining us today. A recording of this session will be posted on the CGHE site: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/intrinsic-higher-education-and-the-threat-of-the-employability-mantra/>

01:04:19 CGHE Webinars: Our next webinar, 'Racialization and International Academic Mobility: Mixed Legacies in the Fulbright Program', will take place on Tuesday from 2pm (UK). You can register here: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/racialization-and-international-academic-mobility-mixed-legacies-in-the-fulbright-program/>

01:04:49 Antony Vallyon: Replying to "His book Nervous Sta..."

yes, I also thank you Susan, and have copied the link

01:05:40 Yolanda Portilla: Replying to "His book Nervous Sta..."

Thank you, my networking email is [yportill@yahoo.com](mailto:yportill@yahoo.com)

01:09:04 Maria Kireeva: Do we assume that personal formation happens at any HEI? I have seen a lot of universities join the career rhetoric in an almost antagonistic way to classical education.

01:10:19 Jonquil Hinson: Thank you for the seminar.

01:10:26 Antony Vallyon: thank you Simon and Xin Lu for an interesting session on a very important topic

01:11:07 Gabriella Hizume: Thank you very much for the seminar

01:11:33 Ronald Barnett: The continued presence of the humanities in elite institutions is testimony to the status function of higher education being stronger than the employability function IN (just) SOME instances. (Consider the educational trajectories of some UK prime ministers.)

01:13:10 Mei Li: Thank you Simon and team for an inspiring session

01:13:48 Polina Ivanova: Thank you Simon and everyone for a fascinating talk and a very informative discussion

01:14:01 Mohammod Roshid: Thank you, Simon Marginson, for your insightful presentation!

01:14:25 Mei Li: Thank you @Ronald!

01:14:32 Shubhi Singh: Thank for this seminar Simon and Xin followed by interesting and insightful discussion .. Thank you everyone for sharing your questions and helping us dig more deeper what goes on in higher education

01:14:36 Eshan Dauhoo: Excellent talk Simon. Very insightful! Thanks Xin and team for bringing this to us

01:14:44 Linda Wilkinson: Thank you Simon and Xin Lu for a very interesting session on an important topic