

Friday 9 December**11.30-12.30****Caernarfon Suite****Higher Education Policy: Is funding the whole story?**

Facilitator: Professor Carole Leathwood

Contributors: Professor Roger Brown and Professor Jeroen Huisman

The financial crisis and global recession have impacted upon higher education across the globe, though national governments have responded differently in the extent to which they have protected public funding for HE. In England, universities are facing a significant cut to their budgets, with the funding allocation from the government down 9.5% in 2011-12, and the teaching grant almost completely removed from 2012-13. In the context of rapidly reducing public funding, increasing competition from private institutions and uncertain and unpredictable student demand, there are dire predictions of universities closing or merging and courses being severely cut - with the latter already in evidence.

But this is not all about funding. To what extent is the process of marketisation driving change within and between universities? What influence can and do the values and behaviour of the academic community have? Will the budget cuts significantly alter the higher education landscape and in what other ways is the government trying to influence universities and their staff?

This interactive seminar will offer an opportunity to explore these questions and more. The session will begin with short thought-provoking contributions from two key figures in the higher education policy field: Professor Roger Brown, Liverpool Hope University and Professor Jeroen Huisman, University of Bath. There will then be an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in small groups followed by a plenary session for further questions and discussion.

Key questions to consider include:

- What are the key policy drivers for the higher education sector at the present time?
- Is funding the whole story?
- Barbara Adams has argued that 'as citizens and creators of knowledge we are inevitably involved and cannot escape our status as future makers' (Adam 2005). What can and should be the role of higher education researchers and SRHE in response to these developments?

Adam, B. (2005). Futures in the Making: Contemporary Practices and Sociological Challenges - draft paper. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, www.cardiff.ac.uk/socsi/futures/conf_ba_asa230905.pdf Accessed 4 September 2011.