

Higher Education in the UK and the USA since Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan: Converging Models?

Programme



Crédit Photo : Eugenio Prieto

Colloque international / *International conference*

23 mars 2012 / 23 March 2012

Maison de la recherche de la Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3
4, rue des Irlandais, 75005 Paris, France



Membre fondateur de Sorbonne Paris Cité



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This conference addresses the similarities and differences in higher education between the United Kingdom and the United States over the last thirty years. It will attempt to ascertain to what extent the British and American systems of higher education have been converging since the 1980s, and whether they may now be referred to as a particular social, economic, institutional, and ideological “model”.

A generation ago, the higher education systems in the United Kingdom and the United States were dissimilar in a number of ways. From funding and fees to participation and dropout rates, there was a cleavage between the two countries. However, the landscape of higher education and the student experience have changed considerably on both sides of the Atlantic over the past three decades; much has altered since Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1979 and Ronald Reagan President of the United States in 1981. On the one hand, the financial cost for students to go to university has increased considerably, whilst an ever greater emphasis has been laid on individual responsibility, quality, league tables and market forces. On the other hand, there have been social policy changes regarding inclusivity, diversity and affirmative action. More fundamentally, the essential role and purpose of higher education have been increasingly debated in relation to its economic benefit to the individual and the country, rather than the part it plays in personal self-fulfilment and self-betterment.

Do the higher education systems in the United Kingdom and the United States now mirror each other and constitute a specific model?

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programme - morning

09:00-09:30 registration and opening remarks

09:30-11:00 **SESSION A - THE MARKETISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Chair Sarah Pickard, la Sorbonne nouvelle

- 1) **Magali JULIAN**, *Higher Education in the UK under Tony Blair as seen through the media*
- 2) **Bahram BEKHRADNIA**, *The English Experiment in Market-based Higher Education - ideology and reality disconnected*
- 3) **John HALSEY, Kenneth O'BRIEN**, *Education Markets in English and American Universities*

11:00-11:30 tea / coffee

11:30-13:00 **SESSION B - THE ECONOMICS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Chair Kenneth O'Brien, the State University of New York (SUNY)

- 4) **Carole MASSEYS-BERTONECHE**, *The Evolution of Funding Policies in American and British Elite Universities*
- 5) **James CÔTÉ**, *The Consumer Model of Higher Education: The 'BA-lite' awarded in the US, UK, and Canada*
- 6) **Steven WARD**, *The Moral Projects of Neoliberalism and Higher Education Reform in the US and the UK*

13.00-14:00 lunch

programme - afternoon

14:00-15:30

SESSION C - THE ISSUES OF INEQUALITY AND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Sarah Pickard, la Sorbonne nouvelle

- 7) **Anna ZIMDARS**, *The Issues of Access and Inequalities to Higher Education in the UK and the US*
- 8) **Isabelle SINIC-BOUHAOUALA**, *Higher Education in the UK and California: Issues of access, equality and achievement in a time of Excellence*
- 9) **Christine SOULAS**, *Access and the rise of accountability in the governance of public universities in the US*

15:30-16:00

tea / coffee

16:00-17:30

SESSION D - THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair H el ene Quanquin, la Sorbonne nouvelle

- 10) **Marie-Agn es DETOURBE**, *The Quality of the Student's Learning Experience: A strategic dimension of American and British higher education systems in the early 21st century*
- 11) **Chris RUST**, *The Student Experience in the US and the UK: A depressing picture of decline?*
- 12) **Cristiana OLCESE, Clare SAUNDERS**, *Higher Education in Protest: Do current and former students differ from people who have never gone to University?*

17:30-18:00

closing remarks

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speakers

Bahram BEKHRADNIA, PhD, Director, **The Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI)**, Oxford, UK

James CÔTÉ, PhD, Professor of Sociology, **University of Western Ontario**, Canada

Marie-Agnès DETOURBE, PhD, Teaching Fellow (*Prag*) in British Studies, **Université Paul Sabatier Toulouse 3**, France

John HALSEY, PhD, Resident Director, SUNY Brockport London Program, **Brunel University**, UK and **State University of New York (SUNY)**, USA

Magali JULIAN, PhD in British Studies, Teaching Fellow (*Prag*), in Economic and Legal English, **Université Montpellier 1**, France

Carole MASSEYS-BERTONECHE, PhD, Associate Professor in American Studies (*MCF*), **Université Montesquieu-Bordeaux 4**, France

Kenneth O'BRIEN, PhD, Associate Professor, **State University of New York (SUNY)**, USA

Cristiana OLCESE, PhD, Post-doctoral Research Fellow (ESRC) in Politics and International Relations, **University of Southampton**, UK

Chris RUST, PhD, Professor of Higher Education, Associate Dean (Academic Policy), **Oxford Brookes University**, UK

Clare SAUNDERS, PhD, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations (RCUK Academic Fellow), **University of Southampton**, UK

Isabelle SINIC-BOUHAOUALA, PhD, Doctor in American Studies, member of CREW research group, **Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3**, France

Christine SOULAS, PhD, Associate Professor in American Studies (*MCF*), **Université Rennes 2**, France

Steven WARD, PhD, Professor of Sociology, Chair of Social Sciences, **Western Connecticut State University**, USA

Anna ZIMDARS, PhD, Lecturer in Higher Education, **King's College London**, UK



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Friday 23 March 2012 / *vendredi 23 mars 2012*
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4, rue des Irlandais, 75005 Paris, France
RER Luxembourg, Métro Cluny Sorbonne**

**Conference webpage / *page web du colloque*
<http://www.univ-paris3.fr/conf-higher-ed>**

**Conference organised by / *colloque organisé par*
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