Announcement and cfp HER 2013 (Feb 2013)

Announcement and preliminary call for papers

Higher Education Reforms: Looking Back – Looking Forward

10th International Workshop on Higher Education Reform

October 2-4, 2013, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Workshop Themes

After four or five decades of far-reaching reform, Higher Education (HE) has profoundly changed.

The 2013 Workshop theme gives an opportunity to look at the larger picture of these changes, the developments behind them, the drivers of change, and the effects of reform. At the same time, the theme invites contributions about the likely futures of HE over the next generation, suggesting (or speculating on) developments that will further change HE.

Among the most manifest examples are the following:

- The massive growth and increasing differentiation of higher education systems, which has led to ‘massification’ and universalization but still not satisfying growing demand in many countries;
- Under the reign of increasing globalization of markets higher education has become a ‘service’ with expanding international competition, privatization, marketization and commercialization;
- International rankings of “world class universities”, higher education trade fairs, and major efforts at ‘recruiting’ international students have increased the flow of students, academic staff and programs across national borders and led to changes in the structures of studies with a view to international recognition and portability of degrees;
- The changing roles of the state and of markets in the funding, organization, and control of higher education have resulted in new forms of governance, with a rise of a management class and management models and tools and a concomitant decline in collective decision-making by academics;
- Students have moved from being ‘learners’ to ‘consumers’, as tuition fees have steeply increased while public budgets were cut in the wake of the international financial crisis forcing HE institutions, especially universities, to look for additional resources from students and their families;
- Still in infancy but already important, some elite universities have begun to offer “massive open online courses” (MOOC), increasing the opportunities of high quality online learning and private, individual study that will have a massive impact on traditional campus- and classroom-based programs.

Some of these changes suggest that campus-based university education, until recently the norm, will be reserved for a few students whereas the majority will learn mostly or exclusively on-line, independently or in virtual classrooms and learning networks. Analysts fear these developments and trends put in question the traditional role of universities as places for independent research and teaching and thus established notions of institutional autonomy and academic freedom.

The 2013 workshop gives an opportunity for comparative analysis and discussion, either by geography (comparing, for example, reform policies within the same region, for instance former Communist Eastern European or Latin American countries) or by theme (for example the growing importance of private HE institutions in various countries) and the future of public HE). As the overall workshop
theme suggests, contributions should consider development over time rather than a single reform initiative at a particular point in time.

The Organization of the Workshop

The Workshop will be hosted by the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia). It will be organized by staff and students of the Center for Educational Policy Studies, Faculty of Education.

The Workshop is co-sponsored by the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Higher Education Special Interest Group; the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE); and the Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and Training of the University of British Columbia at Vancouver, Canada.

This is the tenth International Workshop on University Reform bringing together researchers and policy analysts and policy makers. Previous workshops have taken place in Vancouver (University of British Columbia), Vienna (University of Klagenfurt), Tokyo (University of Tsukuba), Dublin (Dublin City University), Shanghai (East China Normal University), Mexico City (Center for Research and Advanced Studies - Department of Educational Research), Berlin (Humboldt University) and Pittsburgh (University of Pittsburgh).

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS

Papers and panels are invited to address the above-mentioned and related themes. Proposals of up to 400 words (for papers) and 800 words (for panels) should be received per electronic mail (file transfer) by or before June 1, 2012 at ceps@pef.uni-lj.si. Presenters will be notified by June 14th.

Details concerning communication, registration, accommodation, and the program will be found at the workshop website: http://ceps.pef.uni-lj.si/dejavnosti/conf.htm.

Local Organization Committee

Professor Pavel Zgaga, Director (Workshop Chair), Center for Educational Policy Studies (CEPS), University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education, Slovenia

Igor Repac (Workshop Coordinator)
Slavko Gaber, Associate Professor in Sociology
Manja Klemenčič, Researcher, CEPS affiliated member
Janja Komljenovič, Researcher
Mira Metljak, Secretary, CEPS Journal
Klemen Miklavič, Researcher, CEPS affiliated member
Veronika Tašner, Researcher
Janez Vogrinc, Associate Professor in Education
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International Workshop Advisory Committee

Germán Alvarez Mendiola, Centre of Educational Research and Studies, Mexico City, Mexico
W. James Jacob, Director, Institute for International Studies in Education (IISE), University of Pittsburgh, USA
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