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News //

p. 2-5

Studies //

p. 6

◇ **AFTER BROWNE** THE NEW COMPETITIVE REGIME FOR ENGLISH HIGHER EDUCATION

◇ **RESEARCHING THE "CLASS OF 2011"** THE UK GRADUATE CAREERS SURVEY 2011

◇ **DIVERSITY MATTERS** NEW DIRECTIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH ON UNDERGRADUATE RACIAL/ETHNIC AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

◇ **GIVING IN EVIDENCE** FUNDRAISING FROM PHILANTHROPY IN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Books //

p. 7

◇ Roger Brown: **HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE MARKET**

◇ Mark S. Johnson: GLOBALIZATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF **RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

◇ Alison Fullerr et al. (eds.): **RETHINKING WIDENING PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION** THE ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

◇ Dobbins Michael: **HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE** CONVERGENCE TOWARDS A COMMON MODEL?

p. 2 Short News of The Week

An overview of the breaking news on European Higher Education

EUROPE: STUDENTS FEEL INSUFFICIENTLY PREPARED
Calls have been made for more practical experience

EUROPE: STUDENTS DEMAND SERIOUS BOLOGNA PROCESS
Europe-wide students urge for 'at least' the promised mobility

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: STUDENTS DEMAND AN END TO ABUSES
Students ask the government to stop corruption in HE by all legal means

BULGARIA: EU STUDENT NUMBERS SLASHED DOWN BY HALF
Rector concerned that EU students have halved since Bulgaria joined the EU

CROATIA: ECONOMIST ACCUSED OF PLAGIARISM
Former university head plays down the allegations

DENMARK: RECOMMENDATION FOR OFFICIAL WHISTLEBLOWING
Only after Penkova has the need dawned on university leaders

NORWAY: STUDENT COMPLAIN OF EMPTY WALLETS
The Loan Fund has left students frustrated and broke close to exams

SERBIA: URGE FOR CROSS-BORDER DEGREE RECOGNITION
Serbia needs to improve the conversion and recognition of diplomas

SPAIN: HE INVESTMENT OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITIES?
The government approves an unprecedented higher education budget

TURKEY: PROMISED CHANGES FOR HE AFTER THE ELECTIONS
Premier Özcan looks back to 1869, the opposition wants complete overhaul

UK: UNIVERSITIES MINISTER CAN'T DO IT RIGHT
David Willetts could face a no confidence vote after his recent proposals

UK: NOT BLACK ENOUGH
Professor claims UK HE "riddled with passive racism"

ESNA's news section provides an easy-to-use format to learn about the latest developments in European Higher Education. The news are selected by our team from thousands of sources and drafted to provide you with the most comprehensive overview of events.

short news of the week

“European universities in the world”

+++ RS: SOCIAL SCIENCES LECTURERS ARE FREQUENT GUESTS ABROAD In Serbia there is no official data on the number of lecturers who are teaching at the foreign universities. This information is not even familiar to the Ministry of Education

15-05-2011 - blic.rs/



+++ NO: CHOOSE YOUR EXCHANGE COUNTRY WITH CARE Instead of picking the 'easy and fun' destinations for their study abroad, Norwegian students will be pushed towards focusing on countries whose exchange will help them secure employment in the future, such as Germany and China

18-05-2011 - studvest.no/

STUDVEST.no

+++ UK: LSE LECTURER SAYS BLACK WOMEN ARE UGLY After accepting a donation from Saif Gaddafi, the London School of Economics sparks news controversy. Its lecturer Satoshi Kanazawa cited survey findings from the University of Carolina claiming that black women are less attractive than women of all other races.

20-05-2011

- thenationalstudent.com/

+++ BG: UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN PROTEST AGAINST HIGH TUITION FEES Students have announced protests against a hike in tuition fees of up to 20 %. Slogans such as "university is not a market" and "we are not buyers" will figure in the campaign which is calling for the total abolition of all tuition fees

26-05-2011

- sofiaecho.com/



+++ AT: CALLS FOR PRIVATIZATION IN ORDER TO FUND UNIVERSITIES

According to student representatives, a partial privatization of the federal real estate company "Münze Österreich" (Austrian airports and energy utilities) would help to improve university budgets. The group hopes that the privatizations will bring 24 billion euros

30-05-2011

- derstandard.at/

DER STANDARD

+++ DK: PENKOWA IS BEING DELETED FROM ELECTRONIC RECORDS

Disgraced brain scientist Milena Penkowa's former workplace, the University of Copenhagen, has erased her from their online records. A professor in history at CBS calls it 'a communist practice', cutting out those who fell out of favour

31-05-2011

- universitetsavisen.dk/

+++ UK: ASYLUM SEEKERS BARRED FROM UNIVERSITY Campaigners say new rules forcing asylum seekers to pay higher student fees with no access to grants or loans are 'deeply regressive', the guardian reports

31-05-2011

- guardian.co.uk/



+++ UK: BRITISH UNIVERSITIES MAY LOSE WORLD-CLASS STATUS

The previous dominance by British institutions is threatened to be over-run by the rest of European academia when it comes to accessibility, international recruitment and most of all funding, which is under severe pressure in the current policy environment

31-05-2011

- guardian.co.uk/

+++ DE: CAMPUS IN BONN IS TO BE PART OF A GLOBAL NETWORK

On the opening of the international campus of the "Alternative Nobel Prize" on the Right Livelihood College in Bonn, the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD promotes the exchange between the winners of the alternative Nobel price and graduate students from developing countries

01-06-2011 - kooperation-international.de/

+++ INT: EUROPEANS SPEND BILLIONS ON "SHADOW EDUCATION" Private tuition is a booming business in Europe with parents in France and Germany spending more than 3 billion euros (\$4.39 billion) a year on additional schooling for their children

06-06-2011 - reuters.com/



+++ TR/PL: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

The agreement foresees development of joint scientific projects and mutual visits by Turkish and Polish scientists

07-06-2011 -

- worldbulletin.net/

ESNA's news section provides an easy-to-use format to learn about the latest developments in European Higher Education. The news are selected by our team from thousands of sources and drafted to provide you with the most comprehensive overview of events.

EUROPE: STUDENTS FEEL INSUFFICIENTLY PREPARED

The consulting firm Deloitte has conducted a survey in Central Europe on which universities have the best preparation for future employment. The survey included universities in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania and Latvia.

The best ranked were in the Czech Republic and in Latvia. Despite this, only around half the Czech students (56%) are satisfied with the way universities prepare them for their future and 70% are dissatisfied with the quality of preparation for job search. The 627 surveyed students were all demanding to be taught correctly. "Given the ever-changing job market, universities should quickly adjust their curriculum and focus more on developing soft skills of their students to succeed in increasing competition and limited employment opportunities," Václava Jersáková, director of Human Resources at Deloitte said. [849]

Press release of Deloitte CZ,
18-05-2011 (in Czech)
deloitte.com/

EUROPE: STUDENTS DEMAND SERIOUS BOLOGNA PROCESS

The European Students Union (ESU) which represents a total of 45 national student unions from 38 European countries observe an "increasing lack of commitment to fulfilling even the simplest Bologna goals" and is now asking for minimum standards to be met in order to have a truly comparable and flexible education system across Europe.

The students criticise the sluggish implementation of the Bologna objectives in their statement The Bologna Process towards 2012, presented by ESU at their 60th Board meeting in Tallinn.

The statement has pinpointed the lack of discussion at national levels, especially dialogue between student bodies and teacher unions. Bert Vandenkendelaere, chairman of ESU, said that many countries were happy to join the group of the participating countries, but as the implementation was not followed up properly, the students now urge a minimum set of standards that can ensure Europe-wide mobility. [929]



Press release of ESU, 17-05-2011
esu-online.org/

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: STUDENTS DEMAND AN END TO ABUSES

Student representatives in the Republic of Srpska claim that the situation in higher education is 'chaotic' and denounce as a fact that "some colleges and universities hand out degrees to students with almost no credentials." "We can safely say that we are trapped with an excess number of "so-called" suitable people but lack of actual capable people. We have an excess of diplomas but a lack of knowledge" reads an open letter from the student union to the government and the education ministry.

The letter also states that there is a 'disturbing amount' of incompetent professors at public universities, as the professors are not allowed to work at private and public universities at the same time, making the best ones opt for the private universities. The student union announced it will soon organise a round table on these issues with the Ministry of Education where they will hopefully be offered concrete solutions. [921]

BULGARIA: EU STUDENT NUMBERS SLASHED DOWN BY HALF

According to Ivan Ilchev, rector of the University of Sofia, foreign students cannot come to study in Bulgaria because they have to sit an exam in Bulgarian. However Bulgarian students abroad receive education free of charge and could win bursaries, grants etc, because the respective universities get adequate financing from the state.

The Academy's chairman Nikola Sabotinov explained that all the institutes in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences were examined in detail by 40 European experts from 17 countries and were reformed on the basis of their assessment. He also emphasised how no other organisation has carried out such large-scale reforms, but did not have in mind the EU students coming outside of Bulgaria. As a result, instead of bringing more foreign students and furthering student mobility, the effect of the Bologna and above mentioned reform in the Academy of Science has not been as fruitful as expected. [924]



Ivan Ilchev (Photo: Europost)

CROATIA: ECONOMIST ACCUSED OF PLAGIARISM

The former chancellor of the University of Pula and a longtime professor of economics at the Polytechnic of Rijeka, Marcelo Dujanić, has been accused of plagiarism just before retirement. Out of 243 pages, 162 were reportedly copied from a book by Anton Hauc, a professor at the University of Business and Economics in Maribor, Slovenia.

Dujanić stated that he regrets that he did not quote Hauc often enough but since the book is only a draft of a textbook for a new subject at the university, for which the material to conduct the courses was needed, he thinks that the whole thing is blown out of proportion. He adds that it is a shame he is accused of something like this at the end of his career after writing over 130 scientific papers.

The Polytechnic of Rijeka has declined to comment on the case only indicating that this matter must be resolved among the two professors themselves. [889]



Claus Emmeche (Photo: CE)

DENMARK: RECOMMENDATION FOR OFFICIAL WHISTLEBLOWING

The Danish Ministry of Science recommended as early as 2003, that the country's HE institutions should create guidelines and official mechanisms for 'whistleblowing' on fellow scientists if concerns are raised about inconsistencies. These recommendations went unheard until late 2010 when the scandal over Milena Penkowa blew open.

Professor and science commentator Claus Emmeche said: "In the case of Penkowa, there were researchers who knew something was up. We can now see that they hesitated too long to bring their observation forward." According to him, the case shows how hard it is for co-workers to voice concerns through regular channels.

A 2010 report on scientific honesty by the European Science Foundation ESF, protection of the identity of whistleblowers is pivotal to such a system. Jens Oddershede, rector at University of Copenhagen and involved in the Penkowa case, was himself part of the 2003 committee, but neither he followed the advice. He has described the course of events as 'regrettable.' [1014]

The European Code of Conduct
for Research Integrity,
ESF, 27-04-2011
esf.org/

NORWAY: STUDENT COMPLAIN OF EMPTY WALLETS

Students are once more voicing discontent with the current system of financial aid in the Norwegian HE system. At least eight of the nation's HE institutions have regular classes or exams later than June 15, despite the fact that payments stop after this date. The situation causes stress according to students who have championed the extension of the payment period for some time.

"Many have to sort to private loans or credit cards which can be uncomfortable not to mention risqué," said Hans Udland, a fifth year student. The head of communication at the education ministry, Egil Knudsen said: "It is not relevant to do something about the student loans before the result from the next report on living conditions have been published."

Svein Harberg of the Church, Education and Science Committee admits: "It's and issue finding 'fresh' money for the purpose." A spokesperson of the Norwegian Student Organisation NSO thinks it is unfortunate that the national budget is ignoring students' financial problems. [1009]



Norsk studentorganisasjon

Report of the student review
Studvest, 18-05-2011 (in
Norwegian)
studvest.no/

SERBIA: URGE FOR CROSS-BORDER DEGREE RECOGNITION

The British ambassador of Serbia, Michael Davenport, has recommended that Serbia should take a step forward to a more efficient recognition of the academic diplomas acquired in universities in Britain or anywhere else in the world.

He said that he was 'unpleasantly struck' when he spoke to the young people who have found it problematic to return to Serbia because of the inability to specify the recognition of diplomas obtained at prestigious universities outside of Serbia.

Mr. Davenport stressed that better conversion methods are needed to help encourage more young people to come home after ending their studies. By making the nostrification of their diplomas straight-forward, it would be more attractive for Serbians abroad to return. [761]

SPAIN: HE INVESTMENT OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITIES?

Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba, Spain's First Deputy Prime Minister, has announced the budget for grants and study aid, approved by Council of Ministers for the academic year 2011/12: an amount of 1.3b Euros – 66.4 million more than in the previous year. This 5% increase is supposed to benefit over 1,7 million students.

Meanwhile, these student have been protesting since May 15 against what they believe has been mismanagement of the country in a campaign called 'Real Democracy Now.' With unemployment among the 16 to 29-year-old at around 45%, investment in HE seems to address the wrong issue. "I have several degrees, speak many languages and still get paid a miserable salary," said a 25-year-old protester to News.com.au. The unemployment figures fail to reflect the fact that the government has doubled the contribution to grants and study aid since 2004. [856]

Press release by the government,
20-05-2011
lamoncloa.gob.es/

TURKEY: PROMISED CHANGES FOR HE AFTER THE ELECTIONS

The recent scandal surrounding the Turkish university entrance exam (YGS) has prompted calls for change from both the government and the opposition. Yusuf Ziya Özcan, the head of the Higher Education Board (YÖK), has proposed that instead of the exhausting YGS system, the 'maturity exam', first used in 1869 during the Ottoman Empire, should be reinstated. He believes the decrease in workload for students will improve the board's performance.

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), instead proposes a complete change of the education system. In the party's education report 'Education: Equal Opportunity, Lifetime Learning,' the party found fundamental problems in the Turkish educational system which they aim to correct. The goal is an 'information society' and in regards to the YÖK - "We will not have YÖK – we do not need such an autocratic body," said Kılıçdaroğlu. "All universities should be financially and administratively autonomous." [969]



Education Report of the CHP,
24-05-2011 (in Turkish)
chp.org.tr/



Karma Nabulsi
(Photo: Arabic Hour)

Press release of million+,
10-05-2011
millionplus.ac.uk/

UK: UNIVERSITIES MINISTER CAN'T DO IT RIGHT

The Minister of Universities David Willetts has been proposing new ways of structuring the access to universities. However, his ideas have been met with fierce opposition by academics and commentators which may result in a no confidence vote next month.

His ideas includes pre-paid 'off-quota' placements at top universities to create more places without increasing the budget, and last-minute 'fee-bargains' for students who submit their applications during the clearing process. The National Office for Fair Access (OFFA) fears that the latter would create chaos in the application process.

As a result of criticism, 3700 academics at Oxford University will be casting their vote on Willetts performance in June. Dr. Karma Nabulsi at Oxford has said of Willetts: "This is the kind of absurd outcome that comes when you try to introduce market principles into a common good such as education." [892]

UK: NOT BLACK ENOUGH

A two year research project of the National Union of Students (NUS) entitled 'Race for Equality' surveyed 900 university students of African, Asian and Caribbean descent and revealed that one in six has experienced racism at universities. The students also expressed frustration with the lack of non-Eurocentric point of view in the teaching and learning environment.

NUS released a report with recommendations, stressing the need for anonymous grading and the right to challenge marks. NUS President Aaron Porter has said: "We have a long way to go to close the participation gap for black students in education."

Figures of the Higher Education Statistics Agency show that only 50 out of 14,385 British professors are coloured and of that, only 10 of the 50 black British professors are women, the Guardian reports. Nelarine Cornelius, a professor and associate dean at Bradford University, said that while universities took discrimination very seriously when it came to students, they paid far less attention concerning staff. Matter of fact, 94% of British professors are white, 4% are Asian and only 1.2% of all academics are black. [1136]



national union of students

Report of *The National Student*,
23-05-2011
thenationalstudent.com/

STUDIES // Each copy of your ESNA bulletin will provide information on studies which have captured our attention as pieces that may contribute to our common understanding of higher education. Our priority is to keep ESNA readers at the forefront of the knowledge pool on higher education and provide an arena for the issues raised in these studies to be heard.



Roger Brown
CSHE
2011 | English
[Download](#)

AFTER BROWNE

THE NEW COMPETITIVE REGIME FOR ENGLISH HIGHER EDUCATION

This study analyses the situation of English universities that will be from 2012 operating in a more demanding market environment. There will be competition on tuition fees for undergraduate (Baccalaureate) programs for the first time. New private, including "for profit", providers will be entering the market. There will be much more information about what institutions will be offering to existing and potential students. The Government believes that this will raise quality as well as providing a sustainable basis for the future. However there is little evidence to support these beliefs and considerable grounds for supposing that these policies will create a more stratified, and potentially more wasteful, system.



High Fliers Research
May 2011 | English
[Download](#)

RESEARCHING THE "CLASS OF 2011"

THE UK GRADUATE CAREERS SURVEY 2011

The survey is based on face-to-face interviews with 17,851 final year students from thirty leading universities, completed in March. This sample includes more than a fifth of the finalists due to graduate from these universities this summer. The research confirms that many students graduating in the 'Class of 2011' began their job search much earlier than usual and that finalists have made a third more job applications to graduate employers than last year – taking application levels to an all-time high.



Gregg Thomson
CSHE
May 2011 | English
[Download](#)

DIVERSITY MATTERS

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH ON UNDERGRADUATE RACIAL/ETHNIC AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

This paper reviews the new directions in institutional research on undergraduate racial/ethnic and socioeconomic diversity at the University of California, Berkeley. The use of web-based census surveys has made possible more detailed and extensive analysis of student diversity. Included is research on an expanded number of racial/ethnic groups and on multiracial students, the significance of the African American experience, implications of the new IPEDS racial/ethnic reporting requirements, and a closer examination of Pell Grant and first-generation college students.



Beth Breeze et al. (eds.)
European Commission
June 2011 | English
[Download](#)

GIVING IN EVIDENCE

FUNDRAISING FROM PHILANTHROPY IN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

This report presents the results of the first large-scale study of philanthropic funding in European universities in general, and specifically in support of research. It covers individual donors, charitable trusts and foundations and private corporations, analysing the wide range of contextual and institutional factors affecting success and failure in fundraising from philanthropic sources, the distribution of efforts and outcomes of fundraising activities, ways in which philanthropic contributions are used to support research, and the positive and negative impacts of receiving this source of funding.



John Milton would have read ESNA news

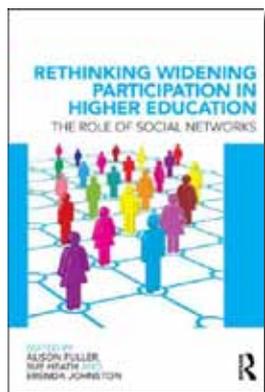
BOOKS // Books, books and more books! In the book review section of your Bulletin, the ESNA newsroom will share with you its reviews and announcements of the latest publications on higher education. Our subscribers are also invited to contribute requests or reviews on our website to build an information pool for the community.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE MARKET

The introduction of market forces into higher education is the most crucial issue facing universities and colleges today. As the role of universities in the knowledge society becomes ever more apparent, and as public funding reaches its limit, marketisation has become an issue of critical importance. Discussions about the ever-increasing cost of tuition, affordability, access, university rankings, information, and the commercialization of academic research take place not just in North America, Western Europe and Australasia, but also in Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. Contributors propose how market forces, government intervention and academic self-regulation can be combined to harness the benefits of increased competition and efficiency without losing the public good.

Roger Brown
Routledge, July 2010
ISBN 978-0-415-99169-8
234 pages paperback £24.99

Order



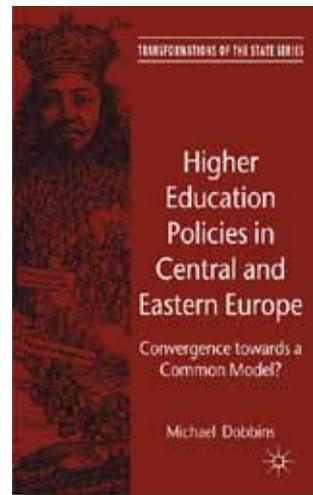
RETHINKING WIDENING PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION THE ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS

Previous work on widening participation in HE has focussed on why people choose to go to university but this vital new research has

focussed on looking at why people choose not to go. Moreover, much of the extant literature concentrates on the participation decisions of teenagers and young adults whereas this book foregrounds adult decision-making across the life-course. The book is also distinctive because it focuses on interview data generated from across the membership of inter-generational networks rather than on individuals in isolation, in order to explore how decision-making about educational participation is a socially embedded, rather than an individualised, process. It draws on a recent UK-based empirical study to argue that this network approach to exploring educational decision making is very productive and helps create a comprehensive understanding of the historically dependent, personal and collective aspects of participation decisions.

Alison Fuller, Sue Heath, Brenda Johnston (eds.)
Routledge, April 2011
ISBN 978-0-415-57564-5
166 pages paperback £22.99

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HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE CONVERGENCE TOWARDS A COMMON MODEL?

A political science perspective on higher education reform processes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This book focuses

in particular on changes to governance patterns in Poland, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Romania both before and during the Bologna Process. Michael Dobbins systematically examines the impact of historical institutions and transnational networking on institutions of higher education from a comparative perspective. Based on four country case studies, he asks whether the countries are converging towards a common model of governance defined as the market-oriented model. By examining issues such as the role of the state and external stakeholders, the relationship between academia and university management and funding questions, he examines explanations for the cross-country similarities and differences in the process of institutional change since the fall of communism.

Michael Dobbins
Palgrave Macmillan, March 2011
ISBN 9780230291393
248 pages hardback £57.50

Order

GLOBALIZATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

This comprehensive books fills a gap by offering the first analysis of the dramatic changes that transformed higher education systems in Russia and Eurasia as they emerged from Soviet control to come out in English. The effects of globalization on education is moving to the forefront. This book contains extensive research and interviews with policymakers, university leaders, faculty members, and students.

Mark S. Johnson
Palgrave Macmillan, February 2011
ISBN 978-1-403-96836-4
272 pages hardback £42.50

Order