

The Structural Transformation of Higher Education. Between Market Logic and Neo-Feudal Hierarchies

Revised Program

Friedrich Schiller University Jena
Institute of Sociology

March 16 – 17, 2015

Rosensäle, Fürstengraben 27, 07743 Jena



Monday, 3/16: Academic Capitalism Revisited

10.00 Introduction (*Organizers*)

Global Markets, Market Discourses and Distributions of Power

10.30 Opening Lecture

Building Academic Capitalism: Transatlantic Moves to the Market
(*Sheila Slaughter, University of Georgia*)

11.15 The Knowledge-Based Economy as a Global Economic and Political

Imaginary and its Implications for Reform in Higher Education
(*Bob Jessop, Lancaster University*)

– Coffee break –

12.30 The International Distribution of Power in Higher Education

(*Terri Kim, University of East London*)

13.15 “Elitism” in Economics: the Construction of Global Academic

Discourses after the Bologna-Process

(*Jens Maeße, University of Warwick*)

– Lunch break –

University Finances, Public Spending and New Forms of Competition

15.00 Neo-Funding and Spending Models for Research Universities: A

Comparative Look at the Effects of Chasing the Money and Seeking
Prestige

(*John Douglass, University of California, Berkeley*)

15.45 American Discourses Meet European Initiatives: Toward Varieties of

Academic Capitalism

(*Tobias Schulze-Clever, Rutgers University*)

– Coffee break –

17.00 Media Rankings and the Making of a Market of Higher Education

(*Julie Bouchard, Institut des sciences de la communication du CNRS, Paris*)

17.45 Discursive Capitalism: Academic Discourse as a Positioning Practice

(*Johannes Angermüller, University of Warwick*)

Tuesday, 3/17: New Academic Feudalism? Social and Academic Hierarchies

Social Hierarchies: Status Inheritance, Academic Credentials and Work

- 9.15 Access, Competition, and For-Profit Higher Education in the United States
(Tobias Schulze-Cleven, Rutgers University)
- 9.45 Non-Academic Work in Higher Education: The Impact of New Public Management
(Ulf Banscherus/Romy Hilbrich, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
- 10.30 Organizational Decision-Making, (E)valuation and Funding: The Case of the German University
(Frank Meier, Universität Bremen)

– Coffee break –

- 11.30 Mass Higher Education as a Function of the Credential Society
(Tilman Reitz, Universität Jena)
- 12.15 The Corruptibility of the University: Smith, Humboldt and the Need for New Mechanisms
(Heinz-Dieter Meyer, State University of New York)

– Lunch break –

New Hierarchies of Academic Knowledge and Power

- 14.00 The Way We Ask for Money: The Changing Logics of Grant Writing in Academia
(Kathia Serrano-Velarde, Universität Heidelberg)
- 14.45 All Power to the Numbers! A Sociology of Quality Assurance in Science
(Richard Münch, Universität Bamberg)
- 15.30 Concluding Remarks and End of the Conference

With its ongoing expansion, the sector of higher education is facing a series of structural transformations. National and regional strategies differ, but two general trends are observable: the introduction of new market mechanisms (from the rise of for-profit teaching and patenting to a competitive distribution of research money) and the re-shaping of academic hierarchies (from a new importance of rankings and ratings to excellence initiatives). The conference aims at a theory-guided analysis of these changes in international comparison. Which functional problems are fundamental, which strategic solutions tend to become hegemonic, and which are the most promising causal explanations?

Mit der anhaltenden Expansion des Hochschulsektors gehen strukturelle Umbrüche einher. Obwohl die nationalen und regionalen Strategien vielfältig sind, lassen sich dabei zwei allgemeine Trends feststellen: die Einführung neuer Marktmechanismen (von profitorientierter Lehre bis zu patentorientierter Forschung) und die Neugestaltung akademischer Hierarchien (von Rankings und Ratings bis zu Exzellenzinitiativen). Die Tagung zielt darauf ab, diese Umbrüche theoriegeleitet und international vergleichend zu untersuchen. Welche funktionalen Probleme erweisen sich als grundlegend, welche strategischen Lösungen setzen sich durch, und wie lassen sich zentrale Veränderungen kausal erklären?

Die Tagungssprache ist englisch / All discussions will be in English.

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