

Public Policy Driving Universities' Social Responsibility and Engagement

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A University is the Institution Most Critical to the Future of our Society

Is Public Policy Complex?

- You would think so if you read the academic literature (Hazelkorn & Gibson, CGHE is a good starting point)
- You would think so if you read the policy frameworks from the European Commission ('Public Policy Labs in EU Member States')
- But is all that post-hoc rationalisation of relatively simple policy interventions?
- The hunt for truth..... At least in the UK

Peano's Axioms or How Complex are Universities

- Institutions in Civil Society, Inward and Outward
- Have Private and Public Funding
- Global Consensus that Investment in Education is good
- Reservoirs of Intellectual Capital, often research-focussed
- Spatially distributed
- Behaviour driven by Reputational and Funding Incentives
- Not very 'Managed' Institutions
- Most policy interventions based in limited hard evidence

Policy Interventions

- Scaling up
- Performance-based Investment
- Targetted Investment, notably for Engagement/Collaboration
- ... or explicitly for Impact
- Greater Accountability (ideally conflated with reputational indicators)

Policy Interventions

- Social Mobility driver

UK Experience – Undifferentiated Sector, Autonomous with Incentives

- Attempts at better evidence, partly through longitudinal data collection
- Long-term Performance-based Investment for Research
- Long-term targeted Investment, notably for Engagement/Collaboration. And now Impact
- University Funding alongside targeted funding
- Support for Private Income with ‘deregulation’
- Greater Accountability (ideally conflated with reputational indicators)

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University Attributes

- Largest/2nd Largest regional employers
- Social and Cultural Centres
- Discretionary resources for investment
- Global, national and regional institutions
- Global, national and regional partnerships



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