

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES AND IDEAS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Governing Knowledge Globally: policy internationalism, global science,
and the open society'

Roger King, Open University and LSE, UK

Monday 6 April
12.30 - 2.00pm

Barbara Falk Room
1st Floor
CSHE
715 Swanston St
All welcome

To register please email
Adeline Sze , CSHE
asze@unimelb.edu.au



Roger King is Visiting Research Professor at the Centre for Higher Education Research and Information at the UK Open University, and Research Associate at the Centre for the Analysis of Risk and Regulation at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is on the Board of the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education and consultant to Universities UK, currently on private higher education and on regulatory governance. He was a member of the recent Guthrie Review of the Australian National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes. Previously he was Vice Chancellor of the University of Lincoln, UK (1989-2001) and founding Chair of the Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (1997-2001) (now The Higher Education Academy).

The presentation explores the increased global governance of knowledge systems, including universities, and the various dilemmas that these processes engender. It examines explanations for the global convergence of policies on state-university relationships and on the most appropriate organizational forms for advanced tertiary institutions. The presentation considers strategies of 'mock compliance' and 'regulatory ritualism' as behavioural means for preserving national variety within the constraints of increased policy internationalism.

In the specific instance of science, and

science as an 'open good', the presentation explores whether we are likely to see a major decline in the scientific nationalism that has characterized governmental science and innovation policies in the advanced countries since the mid-twentieth century. Rather, are we witnessing the growth of a more informal, self-governing and networked global science, facilitated by advances in information and communication technologies, and increasingly outside the gaze of governmental authorities? How is the increased private authority of global science best governed?

More particularly, the presentation raises

the question of whether the 'open society' is a necessary requirement for good science. Are high quality science, institutional self-governance and liberal democracy necessary corollaries? Or are there significant differences between the methods and autonomies of scientific conjectures and refutations, on the one hand, and democratic processes on the other, to permit quality research in a variety of state forms? Consequently, are there 'natural' socio-political limits to the major research universities in non-liberal democracies such as China reaching the very highest echelons of global university rankings?