

Who Rules Research Commands the University: A Comparison of Research Assessment Schemes in the United Kingdom and in the Netherlands

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Abstract

This paper compares the research assessment schemes in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, which are diametrically opposed in methods and approach. The main question is if the different approaches lead to different impacts on universities. It will be argued that the UK's RAE leads to a higher degree of concentration of research funds than the Dutch research evaluations. Other consequences are quite similar, however: concentration on publishable research ("short-termism", "salami publishing"), mobility on the academic labour market, knock-on effects of research assessments ratings on grant-earning capacity, etc. Through research assessment schemes, governments may be pushing higher education harder towards research, but especially university managers have gained an important position to govern the academic heartland.

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