

Kingston University London

Tuesday 3rd June 2008, 5pm

Rm JG1008, John Galsworthy Building, Penrhyn Road

**Professor Rosemary Deem, Professor of Education, Centre for
Studies in Higher and Post-compulsory Education (SHAPE),
Graduate School of Education, University of Bristol**

Reshaping English Universities in the Twenty-first Century in the Context of New Labour's Public Service Reform; the Views of University Leaders

The paper is based on a current UK Economic and Social Research Council funded project (award no 000-23-1136) exploring the connections between leaders acting as change agents, leadership development (particularly that offered by recently established national leadership bodies) and the New Labour government's current and recent public service modernization agendas in relation to health, secondary schools and higher education. The paper focuses on the higher education strand of the project, based on 29 interviews with academic leaders (VCs, PVCS, Deans) in six pre- and post-1992 universities. Interviews with other key informants from national organizations concerned with higher education are also utilized. The analysis draws upon theories about New Labour's politics, particularly in respect of public services (Newman 2001; Driver and Martell 2006), recent comparative work about the governance of European higher education and the notion of England as the prototype 'evaluative state' (Leisyte, de Boer and Enders 2006; Kehm and Lanzendorf 2006), notions of distributed leadership (Gronn 2000; Gronn 2002) and ideologies of new managerialism, which in the case of universities give greater credence and power to manager-academics in leadership positions (Deem and Brehony 2005; Deem, Hillyard and Reed 2007). The interview data are interrogated in order to explore respondents' perceptions of the relationship between higher education leadership, leadership development, university autonomy and New Labour's reform agenda for public services, including the establishment of national public service leadership bodies.

References

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Rosemary Deem is Professor of Education and Research Director for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law at the University of Bristol, an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences, Vice-Chair of the Society for Research into Higher Education and also chairs SRHE's Research and Development Committee. She is a sociologist who has also worked at Loughborough, York, the Open and Lancaster Universities and at the former North Staffordshire Polytechnic. She was director of the UK Learning and Teaching Support Network Education Subject Centre ESCalate from 2001-2004, a UK Research Assessment sub-panellist for Education in the 1996, 2001 and 2008 Exercises, a member of the UK Economic and Social Research Council Grants Board from 1999 to 2003 and is a former Chair of the British Sociological Association. She was joint editor of the Blackwells international journal *The Sociological Review* from 2001-5 and is on the Editorial Board of *Studies in Higher Education*, *Equal Opportunities International* and *Higher Education Quarterly*. Her research interests include higher education policy, governance and management, organisational cultures, equity, equality policies and education, the relationship between research and teaching in

universities and the connections between lifestyles and urban environmental interventions.

The seminar is being held as part of the **HE Seminar Series** being organised by Professor Mary Stuart, Deputy Vice-Chancellor. If you would like to attend please let Ellie Hibberd know on: E.Hibberd@kingston.ac.uk or 020 8547 8287 (ext 63287).