

Student Mobility as a Response to Labour Market Congestion

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Room 2002, John Galsworthy Building, Penrhyn Road Campus
Kingston University, Kingston upon Thames

A common theme within the literature on higher education is the congested nature of the graduate labour market. Researchers have highlighted the lengths to which many students now go, in response to this congestion, to 'distinguish themselves' from other graduates: paying increased attention to university status; engaging in a range of extra-curricular activities; and pursuing postgraduate qualifications.

Studies that have focussed on the strategies of Asian students, specifically, have pointed to the important place of studying abroad as a further strategy in this pursuit of distinction.

Given that there is now some evidence that the number of UK students enrolling on a degree programme overseas is increasing, this seminar explores the extent to which an overseas education can be seen as part of a broader strategy on the part of British students to seek distinction within the labour market, and whether such an education does indeed offer tangible employment benefits.

Rachel Brooks has recently taken up the position of Professor of Education at Brunel University after eight years at the University of Surrey. Her work focuses on young people's experiences of education and training. Over recent years, she has conducted research on: the internationalisation of higher education; young graduates and lifelong learning; higher education students with parental responsibilities; and citizenship education and young people's political participation. Her most recent book, *Student Mobilities, Migration and the Internationalization of Higher Education* (with Johanna Waters), is due to be published by Palgrave in April 2011.

