



Challenges in the research on equality in higher education

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Quantitative centered research

- Weak qualitative research perspective on the society and equality in higher education
- Need for viewing the issue through the prism of contemporary norms, political rationalities, imaginaries, ideologies... (**equity, equality**)
- Differing political reports from genuine research
- Need for new approaches to equality, reproduction, emancipation



Alternative mechanisms of reproduction, inequality, emancipation

- Institutional reputation (ranking, world class university...)
- Completion issue and debt
- Access to mobility
- Destination on the labor market and society
- Effect of meritocratic selection
- Type of institution
- Choice of subject

Western Europe centered literature

VARIETY across Europe:

- Social
- Historical
- Cultural

Quantitative challenges

Comparability and classification issues

- Defining higher education
- Ambiguous classifications of levels
- Length of degrees
- Access to datasets

Use of rational choice analytical tools

- The approaches used focus mainly on the individual level
- Little focus on macro-level approaches (e.g. conflict theories)

Immigrant communities

- summarizing existing research which often only focuses on individual countries
- Country/society of origin
- Family ties (*intergenerational closure*)
- Welfare systems
- Soc. deprivation vs. ethnic origin

Discussion