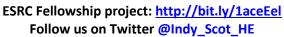


Higher Education, the Devolution Settlement and the Referendum on Independence

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Think Tank 2: Widening access to higher education in Scotland, the UK and internationally

Venue: Godfrey Thomson Hall, Thomson's Land,

The Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh

Date: Tuesday 8th October 2013

Time: 9:30 – 16:30

Registration: http://bit.ly/16reYk6

(FREE but RSVP on or before 1st October, 2013)

Parking: <u>Car parking permit at Old Moray House</u> (option 1)

Pay and display parking at St John's Hill Car Park (option 2)

The aim of the project is to consider the future challenges and opportunities faced by higher education in Scotland and the rest of the UK in the case of further devolution or a vote for independence in autumn 2014. This think tank focuses on issues associated with widening participation and fair access to higher education.

Key questions include the following:

- How has higher education contributed to social mobility in Scotland other parts of the developed world?
- What is the relationship between the recent expansion of the higher education system and the participation of traditionally under-represented groups? What variations are evident in the social profile of students in different parts of the UK? Is there any evidence of movement towards the EU's goal of breaking the link between social class background and participation in higher education?
- Do pupils from poorer social backgrounds experience equal treatment in the university application process, particularly when applying to elite institutions?
- What measures appear to be successful in encouraging participation of pupils from under-represented groups?
- What differences currently exist between England and Scotland in terms of widening participation and fair access? What appears to be the impact of different funding regimes in England and Scotland? What further differences might emerge in the future in terms of widening participation and fair access between Scotland and other parts of the UK?







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Think Tank 2:

Widening access to higher education in Scotland, the UK and internationally

Programme

Chair: Professor Lyn Tett

09.30 - 10.00	Registration
10.00 - 11.30	Approaches to widening access in Scotland
	Higher education and social mobility in Scotland
	Dr Cristina Iannelli, University of Edinburgh
	Widening access: The role of Scotland's colleges
	Professor Jim Gallacher, University of Stirling
	Contextualised admissions policies and fair access
	Dr Laurence Lasselle, University of St Andrews
	Questions
11.30 – 11.50	Tea/coffee break
11.50 – 12.30	Discussion in breakout groups
	In Godfrey Thomson Hall, room 1.15 & room 2.01
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 14.40	Approaches to widening access in England
	Widening access initiatives in England
	Professor Carole Leathwood, London Metropolitan University
	Russell group universities and fair access for pupils from the state sector and
	the independent sector
	Dr Vikki Boliver, Durham University
	Questions
14.40 - 14.55	Tea/coffee break
14.55 – 16.00	Widening access for pupils from social disadvantage backgrounds: the role of
	fees, loans and grants
	Dr Gill Wyness, London School of Economics and Political Science
	Widening access: what can we learn from Europe?
	Dr Dominic Orr, Eurostudent Project, German Centre for Research on Higher
	Education and Science Studies
	Questions
16.00 – 16.30	Panel discussion



