Widening Participation in England:
- Context
- Policy
- Law

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CONTEXT:
- What is the United Kingdom?
- Devolution & Higher Education
- The Impact of the European Union
- The Bologna Process
- Does Governance Matter?
  - What is a University?
  - Mission and mission differentiation
  - Distinctive ethos (HEFCE)
  - Access agreements (HEA2004)

POLICY:
- What is access/widening participation?
- Key elements:
  - Age
  - Class
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
  - Trow (1973):
    “elite – mass – universal access” model
  - Ball (1990): “more is different”
Figure 10
RISE IN HE PARTICIPATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

(Per cent)

Up to 21 years old

25 years

22-24 years

Source: DfEE. "Provisional upper end of range." **Projected
RETENTION:
- Avoid “the revolving door”
- Early engagement with students
- Curriculum & learning environment
- Induction – recognise “lack of cultural capital”
- The “first year experience” (freshmen)
- Staff development & research
- Re-focus away from “dropout/stopout” & address how to redress the lack of cultural capital
- Change the semiotics

The Law:
- Contract - Clark v University of Lincolnshire and Humberside [2000] All ER 752
- Higher Education Act 2004 Section 31 – OFFA
- Student Fees (Approved Plans) (England) Regulations 2004, SI 2004 No.2473
- Equal Treatment Framework Directive 2000/78/EC
- Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended)
- Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (as amended)
The Law:
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended)
- Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003
- Human Rights Act 1998
  - Article 14
- European Union Law e.g. Art 12, Art 18, Art 149
  - Directive 2004/38/EC recognises a right to study in another member state

CONCLUSIONS:
1. Policy drives funding
2. Universities are “independent” but follow funding
3. Policy analysis is mixed – what is the core aim of the policy?
4. Much research has been done: policy has been developed; funding patterns have changed; the landscape of higher education has radically altered.
5. No legal challenges have yet taken place à la Grutter.