

Widening Participation in England:

- Context
- Policy
- Law

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CONTEXT:

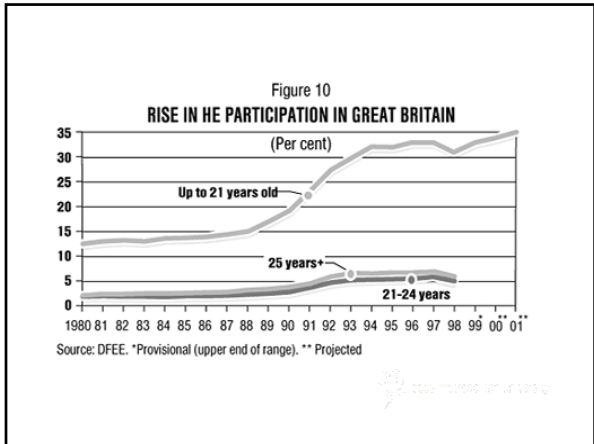
- What is the United Kingdom?
 - Devolution & Higher Education
- The Impact of the European Union
- The Bologna Process
- Does Governance Matter?
 - What is a University?
 - Mission and mission differentiation
 - Distinctive ethos (HEFCE)
 - Access agreements (HEA2004)

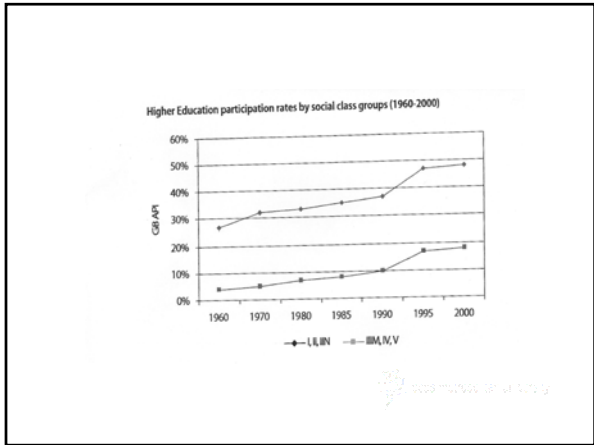


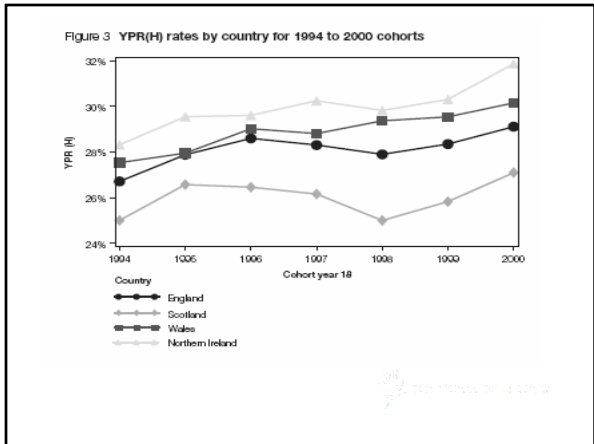
POLICY:

- What is access/widening participation?
- Key elements:
 - Age
 - Class
 - Gender
 - Ethnicity
- Trow (1973):
“elite – mass – universal access” model
- Ball (1990): “more is different”





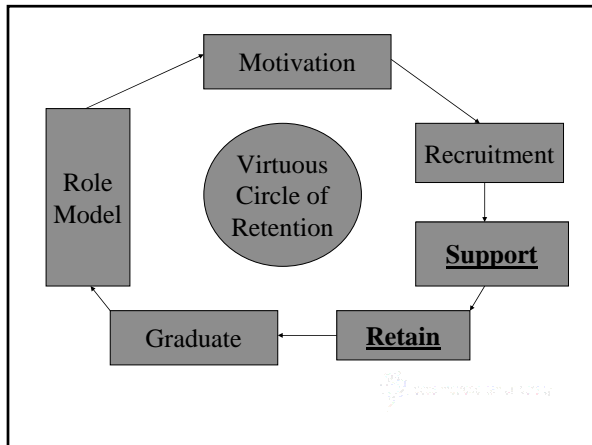




RETENTION:

- 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
 - European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950
 - 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.