
Entrepreneurial Universities – Possibilities and Dilemmas

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Academic capitalism (Slaughter & Leslie 1997)

- Efforts to attract external funding at all university levels (institutions, departments, research groups and individual academics)
- Direct market activity
 - seeks for profit
 - patents, licences, spin-off firms etc.
- Market-like activity
 - competition of external funding without the intention to make profit
 - grants, research contracts, donations etc.

Periods in the Finnish science policy

- Period of national culture (1950s – early 1960s)
- Period of system expansion and societal relevance (1960s – 1970s)
- Period of technology policy and increasing accountability pressures (1980s)
- Period of innovation policy (1990s -)

Current trends in university research

- External funding
 - Interdisciplinary research
 - Fixed-term project work
 - Internationalisation of research
 - Group work
 - Collaboration between science and industry
 - Commercialisation of research results
- National, institutional, disciplinary and local cultures and traditions shape adaptation to these trends.

For whom is research done?

1. Academic orientation: scientific community
2. Entrepreneurial orientation: market forces
3. State-governmental orientation: decision-makers
4. Civil society orientation: ordinary people

Tensions in university research

- Secrecy vs. openness of research results
- Long-term vs. short-term time span
- Basic research vs. product development
- Academic freedom vs. negotiation process between different parties
- Permanent posts vs. temporary project workers
- Disciplines close to the market vs. disciplines far away from the market
- Academic prestige vs. prestige among the funding bodies