

Higher education in Scotland, the devolution settlement and the referendum on independence

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The project

- 1 year project starting on 1st March 2013 and finishing on 28th February 2014
- Professorial fellowship funded by ESRC within Constitutional Future of UK and Scotland programme



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Why focus on higher education in relation to constitutional futures?



- Major differences between Scotland and England in relation to higher education policy – e.g. in relation to tuition fees & widening access
- Illuminates key issues such as future of shared services (UCAS, Research Councils, NUS, UCU, USS etc.)
- Maps onto other policy fields – e.g. immigration
- Highlights territorial inter-dependencies
- Raises questions about cross-border differences in welfare entitlements
- Of great importance to the general public and young people



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Main areas of work

- Review of policy and statistical data to explore on-going effects of devolution on higher education, the influence of EU policy and the global higher education market
- Extend existing analysis of UCAS (HESA?) data to investigate cross-border student flows and future scenarios
- Conduct key informant interviews to illuminate the impact of devolution and the implications of independence and/or further devolution
- Carry out a range of knowledge exchange activities



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Knowledge exchange activities:



- Working and briefing papers
- Newspaper and magazine articles
- Glossy publication aimed specifically at younger people
- Production of resource materials for schools and a short film
- Regular news updates on the project website
- Contribution to TV and radio programmes
- Think-tanks and a conference
- Academic papers & a book



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Think-tanks

- **The funding of higher education in Scotland, the UK and internationally**
- **Widening access 8th October**
- **Higher education future scenarios date t.b.c.**

- **Associated project – Nuffield Foundation funded work – Professor David Raffe and Dr Linda Croxford**
- **Analysis of cross-border student flows & institutional differentiation**
- **Dissemination event 14th June**



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People working on the project

- Linda Croxford and David Raffe will analyse the quantitative data (building on a earlier Nuffield funded project: Changing transitions to a differentiated higher education system
(www.ces.ed.ac.uk/research/DIFFHE/index.htm)
- Sheila Riddell and Elisabet Weedon will be responsible for KI interviews and KE with our new research fellow Sarah Minty
- In addition, School of Education is funding a 3-year PhD – student. Sarah Whittaker will work on a quantitative analysis of data linked to Nuffield Foundatin work



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Further details of the project will be
available on our websites:

CREID: <http://www.creid.ed.ac.uk>

ESRC Fellowship project: <http://edin.ac/10B02Nd>

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