

New Vistas | Policy, Practice and Scholarship in Higher Education

EDITOR'S NOTE

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Uncertainties about Brexit and its impact is still a major concern of the higher education sector. While debates focus on how to “lock-in” the benefits of current EU membership for a post Brexit era, universities have been engaging actively in their REF activities and submission strategies. Discussions about the student experience are complemented in the media by narratives on whether a good degree is worth the investment and the level of fees students pay. Student attainment is a serious issue at all levels of post-compulsory education, where race is a determinant factor in student experiences and it is of great interest to look at institutions that are able to make changes.

In this issue, Tatsi and Darby engage with the attainment debate, by addressing the ‘degree attainment gap’, i.e. the discrepancy in the rate of ‘good degrees’ achieved by Black, Asians and Minority Ethnic qualifiers compared with white graduates, a discrepancy that persists in higher education. This is a field of intense activity at the University of West London and the article also discusses the strategies the university is currently employing to address the matter.

In the disciplines, Brooks in criminology has highlighted the complex problem of how to theorise and define acts of fraud and corruption. This is a useful endeavour because of the consequences on how we treat, punish and deter offenders. His claim is that further research into fraud in healthcare is needed and particularly in the field of the social sciences and that there is much in the literature that could be used to enrich the debate on fraud and corruption in healthcare systems around the world.

In music production, Exarchos focuses on rap or hip-hop music, referring to rap as the musical element of a hip-hop culture investigation. Sampling in hip-hop practice is a form of digital recording, often utilising previously released phonographic material, and leading to music-making processes. He examines a conundrum in hip-hop music making, where the legal landscape compromises producers’ freedom to create new music using phonographic sources.

Two articles report on research in health care. Lawal, discusses the beneficial effects of diabetes education in promoting patient outcomes. Non-attendance in Diabetes Education Centres remains a big challenge to the implementation of a national diabetes education policy in the UK. Lafarge describes her experience of conducting research on the sensitive areas of pregnancy termination for fetal abnormality on perinatal loss that has recently received widespread coverage.

Finally, two articles report on the impact of media on portraying gender and age and related stereotypes. Olsen explores contemporary advertising in Germany and how it utilises loneliness as a narrative device. The article sheds light on weaving loneliness into sales pitches and looks at loneliness of older people as an activation strategy in the narratives of advertising. Goerzig and Hoggins investigate the portrayal of Olympic athletes in the media and report that the portrayal of Olympic athletes defies traditional gender stereotypes.

Professor Stylianos Hatzipanagos

New Vistas Editor

MISSION STATEMENT

***New Vistas* is published by the University of West London (UWL) and provides a forum to disseminate research, commentary, and scholarly work that engages with the complex agenda of higher education in its local, national and global context.**

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We welcome thought-provoking scholarly contributions from external and internal authors, with the explicit intention to give a voice to early-career researchers and scholars.

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