

University Reform, Globalisation and Europeanisation (URGE)



Work Package 2

Detailed Plan

EU funded MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

URGE: International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

Work Package 2

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1. Detailed Plan

Title: Methodologies: Combining Ethnography and Political Economy

Work Package Coordinator: Cris Shore (Auckland)

Partners involved: Shore, Rata, Tremewan, Spencer & Lewis (UoA); Wright, Nielsen (UA); Jones, (Southampton/Bristol).

Objectives

1. Share the expertise of AU and UoA on the ethnographic study of universities and UNIVBRIS's expertise on critical discourse analysis, in order to promote further joint research initiatives.
2. Explore how to combine the strengths of these interpretive and analytical approaches to empirical data – finding out what is actually going on in universities from different perspectives – with political economy's ability to frame this in a wider theoretical understanding of globalisation.
3. Operationalise the conceptual framework developed in WP1 into a methodology for future research and to create a foundation for future collaborative research bids particularly in the area of globalisation and higher education.

Tasks

The main task of this work package is to provide an evidence-base of what is happening to universities as they try to adapt to the challenges of the global knowledge economy. Much has been written from a theoretical and abstract perspective, especially drawing on approaches from political economy. Few empirical studies have been carried out that illustrate how these processes translate into practice, or how key university stakeholders are participating in processes of change. Our aim is to translate the conceptual and theoretical framework outlined in WP1 into a methodology and research strategy. This work package will develop the methodology that will lay the foundations for subsequent joint research proposals and grant applications involving the European and third country partners in longer-term collaborative research.

The importance of developing a strong empirical strand to accompany the theorising is to ensure that theory serves as a tool of analysis and remains linked to the circumstances of social life. This is an interactive approach to the relationship between theory and empirical study which privileges neither. Rather the relationship itself is pivotal to a comprehensive understanding of social phenomena. However that relationship is complex. There needs to be a link between the empirical account and the theoretical explanation for the relationship to exist. Establishing such a link, especially between local processes which take on different forms in different countries and multi-layered global forces, unites the various expertise of the contributors to this package.

Specific Tasks are to:

1. Share knowledge about ethnographic methodologies developed by existing projects:

- UoA's projects, an 'Ethnography of Auckland University' and 'Academic Agency and Indigenous Ideology in New Zealand Universities'.
 - AU's project 'New Management, New Identities? Danish University Reform in International Perspective'
 - UNIVBRIS's project on EU's discourses and the politics of the production of text.
2. Identify the strengths from each project in studying policy histories, governance reform, and new ways of enacting of the roles of managers, academics and students.
 3. Identify the methods used in fieldwork and analysis to create a composite ethnographic picture of what is going on. The methods may include case studies, document analysis, narrative approaches, historical studies, and participant-observer ethnographic study.
 4. Identify possible methods for combining the methodologies of ethnography and political economy and assess the advantages and possible problems. This includes the danger recognised in the social sciences of privileging either theoretical inquiry on the one hand or focusing solely on empirical studies on the other. The former approach can led to the research itself becoming ideological while the latter can produce a superficial account of social processes.

Exchange visits by:

1. Shore, Tremewan, Spencer and Lewis (University of Auckland) will visit Bristol University

2. Shore (Auckland) will visit Aarhus for 2 separate months hosted by Wright and Nielsen. The purpose of the visits is to work with Wright and other members of EPOKE to share knowledge about methods and methodologies used in their current research projects. In the first visit Shore will also use face-to face contacts to develop the detailed plan for the work package, and his second visit, overlapping with Rata's will be the occasion for the final workshop on relating local and national processes to wider shifts in the global knowledge economy.

3: Nielsen (AU) will visit the University of Auckland for 5 months, (expect timing to be discussed) hosted by Shore and Rata. The aim is to share knowledge about the methodologies developed in the project 'New Management, New Identities? Danish University Reform in an International Perspective' and her associated Ph.D. She will learn about the methodologies developed in Shore's ethnographic studies of New Zealand university reform and Elizabeth Rata's project 'Researching Academic Agency in the Cultural Production of Indigenous Ideology in New Zealand Universities'. During this visit Nielsen will present a seminar and contribute to the design the working paper (Deliverable D 2.1).

4. Jones (Southampton/UNIVBRIS) to be discussed whether he can visit Auckland for 1 month hosted by Shore and Rata. The purpose is to work with the Auckland team on his ethnography and critical discourse analysis of the politics of the production of EU texts on higher education.

5. Rata (Auckland) will visit University of Bristol for 1 month hosted by Robertson and Dale. The purpose is to work with the Bristol team on how to combine the methodologies of ethnography and political economy. The focus will be on how to identify and analyse the various connections between localised processes and global forces.

Duration: 22 months

2. Draft Schedule

Month	Hosts	Visiting Personal	Tasks
June-August	Shore		Develop Work Plan Reading Group seminar: discussion of paper by Lewis
September	Shore Rata		Finalise Work Plan; Reading Group discussion of papers by Tremewan;
October	Shore, Rata, Tremewan, Spencer, Lewis		Deliverable 1: * Methods: Developing a Framework for combining scales * Writing Group and Post-graduate workshop * Follow up writing group meeting
November	Robertson Dale (Bristol)	Tremewan Shore Spencer Lewis	Deliverable 2: Post-graduate meeting: discussion of NZ case-studies of university reform
December	Robertson Dale (Bristol)	Tremewan Shore, Spencer Lewis Wright, Nielsen, Moutsios, Bovbjerg	Deliverable 3:: Research Methods & University Reform: Presentation of papers on themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local & global scales - Actors and institutions; - Projects & ethics - Agency and power - New forms of governance;
February	Wright Nielsen (AU)	Shore	* Deliverable 4: * Workshop on Methodologies * Meetings with doctoral students Presentation of paper on anthropological methods and methodologies.
March			
April	Lewis, Shore,		Deliverable 5: NZ Workshop on

	Tremewan		internationalisation of HE
May	Wright (AU) Moutsios	Rata	Deliverable 6: * Contribute to reading group * Meetings with doctoral students Presentation of paper on the relationship between neoliberalism and knowledge production in the university as an example of aligning empirical research methods to a political economy approach
June	Wright Nielsen (AU)	UoA: Shore, Rata, Tremewan, Lewis. UoB: Dale AU: Nielsen, Kristensen, Bovbjerg, Moutsios, Henckel, Wright.	Deliverable 7: Work Package 2 Concluding Event 8-10 June at AU Methodologies: Combining Ethnography with political Economy
July			
August - November	Reed Shore	Nielsen	Deliverable 8: * Meetings with doctoral students * Contribute to reading group on global regionalisms Presentation of research by Nielsen Begin outlining Working Paper 1
December	Rata Shore	Bovbjerg	Planning for WP3; participation in Writing Group Deliverable 9: Working Paper 2
June 2012			Deliverable 10: Publish Working Paper 1

Other Deliverables/Outcomes

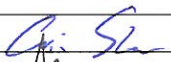

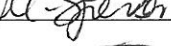






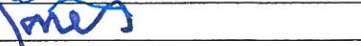


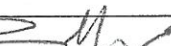
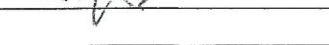
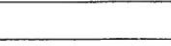
1. Working Papers
2. Journal article(s)

3. Research Workshop – Attendance List

Held at Bristol 30 Nov 2010

Work Package 2: Preparation of contributions, activities, visits (Convened by Cris Shore)

Held at graduate School of Education, Bristol University, 30 November 2010

WP2 30 Nov	Signed attendance
Contributions, activities, visits	
Cris Shore	
Nicholas Lewis	
Melissa Spencer	
Chris Tremewan	
Stavros Moutsios	
Kirsten Marie Bovbjerg	
Gritt Nielsen	
Dirk Michel	
Susan Wright	
Susan Robertson	
Roger Dale	
Peter Jones	
Susana Melo de Melo	
Fumi Kitigawa	
Lisa Lucas	
Thomas Muhr	
Alfredo Gomes	