Research Evaluations and Performance-Based Research Funding Systems: Implications for Education as a Discipline

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July 3, 2018 (Tuesday)
12:45 – 14:15
Room 408-410, Meng Wah Complex, HKU
(Chair: Professor A. Lin Goodwin)

Abstract:
In this seminar, I will reflect on the process of leading an Education submission to the UK Research Excellence Framework as well as participating in such evaluations as both a researcher and panel member. I will also draw on the growing body of research about such evaluations and performance-based research funding systems internationally, their strengths, weaknesses and consequences. I will focus particularly on the relationships between ‘outputs’ (articles, books, etc.) and measures of ‘impact’; the developmental pathways to producing ‘high quality’ research publications and generating influence of various kinds; and the implications for leadership, particularly in those institutions where teacher education forms a significant part of the portfolio. I will argue that while research evaluation and performance-based funding systems are a highly significant factor in developing both disciplinary and institutional strategies – and that there are indeed some aspects of such systems that are undoubtedly useful – they should not become the main driver for improvement in the discipline of education.

About the speaker:
Professor Viv Ellis joined King’s College London in 2016 and currently holds the Chair in Educational Leadership and Teacher Development. He has worked at Brighton, Southampton, Brunel and Oxford universities. His research interests are teacher education and development; cultural-historical activity theory and practice-developing research; comparative studies of education - specifically related to teaching, teacher education and academic leadership with a particular focus on the USA, the Nordic countries and China. His research has been funded inter alia by the Arts and Humanities Research Council; the British Academy; the Higher Education Academy; and the Society for Educational Studies. In 2018, he joined the international team undertaking a strategic review of the Faculty of Education at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 2014, he was a member of the Education sub-panel for Hong Kong Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

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