



# “Relative Autonomy” and the Governance of Public Universities: A Canadian Perspective

**Professor Glen Jones**  
**Ontario Institute for Studies in Education**  
**University of Toronto**

**May 12, 2023 (Friday)**

**4:00 – 5:15pm (HKT)**

**Room 408-410, Meng Wah Complex,  
HKU / by Zoom**

***Chair: Dr Jisun Jung***

## Online Registration:

[https://hkuems1.hku.hk/hkuems/ec\\_regform.aspx?guest=Y&ueid=87519](https://hkuems1.hku.hk/hkuems/ec_regform.aspx?guest=Y&ueid=87519)

*(The zoom link will be sent by e-mail upon registration)*



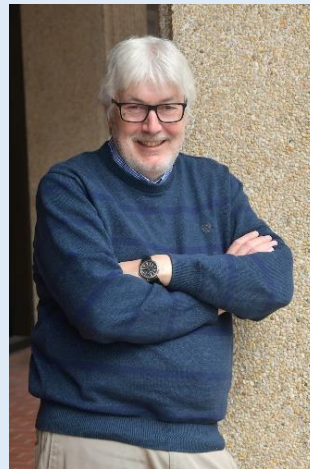
## Abstract:

Governance has become a key area of scholarship within the study of higher education, in part because major reforms in many jurisdictions have led to dramatic shifts in power and authority within higher education systems and institutions. One way of understanding governance reforms is through the lens of relative autonomy, that is, the frequently contested balance between the need for universities to retain elite decision structures that protect academic freedom and judgement while also, as public institutions, responding to external stakeholders in order to maintain the trust of governments and the society in which they function. Findings from two recent studies of university governance in Canada will be presented in order to illuminate the ways in which this relative autonomy has been maintained, but also the contemporary challenges and tensions associated with governance arrangements in this national context.

~ All are welcome ~

*For enquiries, please contact the Office of Research,  
Faculty of Education at [hkchow@hku.hk](mailto:hkchow@hku.hk)*

## About the speaker:



Glen Jones is the Ontario Research Chair on Postsecondary Education Policy and Measurement, the Director of the Centre for the Study of Canadian and International Higher Education, Professor of Higher Education, and former Dean, the

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. His research focuses on higher education governance, policy and academic work, and he has published more than 100 papers in the field of higher education. His recent books include *Governance of Higher Education: Global Perspectives, Theories and Practices* (Routledge, 2016, with Ian Austin), *Doctoral Education for the Knowledge Society* (Springer, 2018, with J.C. Shin and Barbara Kehm), *Professorial Pathways: Academic Careers in Global Perspective* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019, with Martin Finkelstein), *International Education as Public Policy in Canada* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2020, with Merli Tamtik and Roopa Desai Trilokekar), *Universities and the Knowledge Society: The Nexus of National Systems of Innovation and Higher Education* (Springer, 2021, with Timo Aarrevaara, Martin Finkelstein, and Jisun Jung), *University Governance in Canada: Navigating Complexity* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2022, with Julia Eastman, Claude Trottier, and Olivier Bégin-Caouette) and *Internationalization and the Academic Profession: Comparative Perspectives* (Springer, 2023, with Alper Calikoglu and Yangson Kim).