

Gaële Goastellec



Dr. Gaële Goastellec is a sociologist, researcher and head of the "politics and organizations of higher education research unit" at the Observatory Science, Policy and Society, University of Lausanne. She works on higher education policies in a comparative perspective, taking as main focal the issue of access and equity. This topic is addressed through a cross thematic research on identities, governance and funding. Her own researches fieldworks include France, the United States, Indonesia, South Africa and Switzerland. She has been a Fulbright New Century Scholar fellow 2005-2006 (access and equity group), and a French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Lavoisier fellowship) fellow (2004-2005). Visiting researcher invited at the NYU (autumn 2005) and at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa, 2004-2005), she is also part of the Prime European Network of Excellence.

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In your view, what is the most probable or desirable future scenario for diversity and equity in higher education?

The most desirable scenario for diversity and equity: to have higher education institutions and faculties accountable for the social representativity of the student body they admit and take to graduation.

In your opinion, what is or should be the most important objective for higher education in the future? Why?

Producing social mobility.

To improve societies social peace, fairness and democracy, to make the best use of individual competences, to stimulate the creation of an elite able to innovate...

What do you consider to be the main future challenge(s) for higher education systems? Why?

- Guarranting students' equity within higher education systems, institutions and degrees
- Ensuring a fair funding of both institutions and students

In your opinion, what would be the worst, but possible, way to tackle these future challenges? Why?

Setting quotas for access to each institution and degree (weak likelihood) and developing a competition only basis for institutional and individual funding (good likelihood).

What do you consider to be the best possible way to tackle the above mentioned future challenges? Why?

Introduce compulsory indicators on students access and success regarding their social background in Higher Education Institutions rankings in order to improve the visibility of those producing social mobility and index institutional funding accordingly.