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Professor Rebecca Hughes

Higher education networks: theory, practice, impacts

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The future sustainability and challenge for Higher Education:

- How to share and circulate knowledge and at the same time protect local interests?
- How to be locally engaged and globally connected?

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What can a network of peer institutions offer in response?

A balance of competition and collaboration

- Fostering next generation of the research community (bottom up)

- Garnering the benefits of multiple research activities (some central steering – eg ‘global challenges’)

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A public health non-communicable disease case study:

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Recommendations for Reform:

1) In areas such as public health the capacity to share contexts and needs can amplify the impact of individual institutional research
2) Need for clarity of purpose, clarity of benefits, clarity of alignment to type of institution
3) A network of HE providers will provide scale, multiple perspectives, continuity, and develop trust
4) More work needed on ‘network effects’ in e.g. MENA contexts

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