

Higher Education values: continuity, change and care

Keynote address by Professor Sir David Watson

SEDA Conference: changing values in higher education

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Abstract

Taking an initially broad historical and philosophical sweep, David Watson will examine where the purposes and values of higher education came from, and how they have changed. In this process he will analyse various claims universities have made about their effects on students over time and in changing circumstances. He will conclude with some thoughts about how to maintain higher education as a contemporary force for good.

The speaker

David Watson has been Principal of Green Templeton College and Professor of Higher Education at the University of Oxford since October 2010. He was Professor of Higher Education Management at the Institute of Education, University of London, from 2005-2010, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brighton between 1990 and 2005. His most recent books are *Managing Civic and Community Engagement* (2007), *The Dearing Report: ten years on* (2007), *The Question of Morale: managing happiness and unhappiness in university life* (2009), and *The Engaged University* (2011). His new book – *The Question of Conscience: higher education and personal responsibility* – will be published in December 2013.

He has contributed widely to developments in UK higher education, including as a member of the Council for National Academic Awards (1977-1993), the Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council (1988-92), and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (1992-96). He was a member of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's National Commission on Education (1992-1993), and the National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education chaired by Sir Ron Dearing (1996-1997). He was the elected chair of the Universities Association for Continuing Education between 1994 and 1998, chaired the Longer Term Strategy Group of Universities UK between 1999 and 2005, and served as honorary President of the Society for Research into Higher Education between 2005 and 2012. He is a Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation, a Companion of the Institute of Management, and a National Teaching Fellow (2008). He chaired the national *Inquiry into the Future for Lifelong Learning*, and co-authored its report *Learning Through Life* (2009). He was knighted in 1998 for services to higher education. In 2009 he received the *Times Higher Education* Lifetime Achievement Award.