IMPORTANT INTRODUCTORY NOTE: On using and developing this resource

The above resource does not claim to be comprehensive – though I think it’s a fairly good start. Note, too, that it is almost exclusively an academic resource – with all the limitations and narrow focus that this entails. Thus, a trawl of Britain’s Times Higher Education magazine, for example, would certainly reveal many interesting reports and feature articles that are of direct relevance to the current theme; and there will be other such magazines around the world. Such relatively ‘non-academic’ sources are not represented here – not at all because of their lesser value, but because of the sheer amount of work that would be involved in compiling such a resource with an acceptable coverage-range. In addition, book reviews and review articles have not been included in what follows – again, these would be another potentially rich and useful source for the future development of this resource (on which, see below).

The vast majority, but not quite all, of the references are written from a politically progressive, left-ist position; though it felt useful to include the occasional more ‘mainstream’ reference for its informational content. This is also an essentially indiscriminate listing, without annotation or discrimination in terms of quality or depth. Note also that where a reference could sit equally appropriately in my section # I or II, I’ve placed it in both sections (so that those consulting this resource selectively don’t risk missing an important source).

What I have assembled here does have a strong Anglo-Saxon emphasis (UK and North America), reflecting my own limited British, English-speaking identity; but some studies of countries around the world are included, and hopefully scholars and activists worldwide will soon be sending literature references pertaining to their countries and continents. Once the coverage is sufficiently wide-ranging, there’s no reason why the resource shouldn’t be rendered more reader-friendly by differentiating entries, for example by country and continent, by theme, and by date of publication. With more time, it would also be possible to sharpen up the resource, perhaps choosing some key/semitnal readings, with brief annotations as to content. So there are many possibilities… – but my crie de coeur is, let’s make this into a dynamic, living and evolving resource! It should also be noted that some of the references are available on the worldwide web (www), while many of them are, alas, only available through HE data bases, or by purchasing them online.

If you know of references and literature which should appear here but doesn’t, do please let me know at richardahouse@hotmail.com, and we will regularly update this resource so that its use to scholars of, and researchers into, the neoliberal university, and its critique, can be maximized. Also, and perhaps more important, as you publish your own critical work, or become aware of newly published material relevant to this resource, do please send in full references to it, so that they can be added immediately (perhaps under a dedicated section for ‘Recently Published Work’); thank you.

I was, and am, amazed at the sheer scale and quality of the critical literature that has been produced to date – which fact makes the comparably free, uncontested ride that the neoliberal academy has had to date all the more notable, even remarkable. There is surely an urgent need to consolidate and extend this vital body of work, in order that an compelling and convincing counter-cultural discourse
can be created, and thrust into mainstream academic thinking. If the Critical Institute can help to share, disseminate and showcase such critical writings from across the globe, it will have made a significant contribution to the fundamental paradigm change and cultural re-foundation of which the university is in such desperately need. Let a thousand (and more) critical flowers bloom!

Richard House,
Glenn Sutton, Quebec,
New Year’s Day, 2015

I

(1) Critiques of Audit and Accountability Cultures, and of Managerialism (with special reference to education)


Brown, R. (2006) ‘League tables – do we have to live with them?’, Perspectives, 10 (2): 33–8


Charlton, B.G. (2002a) ‘Audit, accountability and all that’, in S. Prickett and P. Erskine-Hill (eds), Education!


Cummins, A.-M. (2002) ‘“The road to hell is paved with good intentions”: quality assurance as a social defence against anxiety’, Organisational and Social Dynamics, 2 (1): 99–119


Education Policy Analysis Archives (2014) EPAA/AAPE Special Issue on ‘The Comparative and International History of School Accountability and Testing’, co-ed. S. Dorn and C. Ydesen (avail. online; see http://epaa.asu.edu/)


Fox, Dr Stephen (2014) ‘Thinking about managerialism’, paper available through Amazon Kindle (24 pp)


Preston, D.S. (2001b) Technology, Managerialism and the University, Glenrothes Publications
Internationalizing Higher Education: Critical Perspectives on Teaching, Research and Policy (pp. 181–98), Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press (orig. Springer)


II

(2) The University in Neoliberal and Globalizing Perspective


Benson, L. and Harkavy, L. (2002) ‘Saving the soul of the university: what is to be done?’, in K. Robins and F. Webster (eds), The Virtual University?: Knowledge, Markets, and Management (pp. 169–209), Oxford: Oxford University Press


Fox, Dr Stephen (2014) 'Thinking about managerialism', paper available through Amazon Kindle (24 pp)


18


Marginson, S. (2006b) ‘Hayekian neo-liberalism and academic freedom’, Keynote address to Philosophy of Education Society of Australia, Women’s College, University of Sydney, 23 November


Richard House (MA [Oxon], Ph.D.) is a Stroud-based chartered psychologist (BPS) and a freelance educational campaigner. Formerly a senior university lecturer at Roehampton and Winchester (UK), he co-edits the Humanistic Psychology journal Self and Society, and is a founding Fellow with the new Critical Institute. A trained Steiner Kindergarten and class teacher, Richard contributes regularly to the professional education and academic psychotherapy literatures. He is Education and Early Years Editor for Hawthorn Press. Correspondence: richardahouse@hotmail.com