

Women professors as intellectual leaders

Brief project update 1 for LFHE (Deadline: 10 June, 2016)

The focus during the first few months of the project has been on establishing the methodological, conceptual and organisational framework prior to data collection and analysis.

The research design has been refined and strengthened on the basis of advice from one of the members of the steering group. This has involved including a small 'control' sample of male as well as female professors. An appropriate sample based on the population is being identified through web searches.

Conceptually, a survey of the literature is being undertaken and this has resulted in the development of a 'conceptual map' identifying a range of relevant theoretical strands and concepts (eg pipeline theory, academic housework, academic capitalism, performativity, etc). Examples of mentorship schemes at professorial level are being identified and collated.

Organisationally, ethical approval has been applied for through the University of Southampton and we are currently awaiting formal approval. A research fellow, Mr Damon Burg, has been appointed on the basis of funding partly drawn from this project to work closely with Professor Bruce Macfarlane. The first formal meeting of the Steering Group for the project will take place on 13th June.

Finally, as part of the dissemination strategy an extended abstract of 1,000 words is being prepared for submission by 24 June, 2016 to the Society for Higher Education Annual Conference in December, 2016.

Our plans for the next three months are to complete the 30 interviews including the transcriptions. As part of the interview process we will be requesting CVs from participants which will also be subject to analysis. We will do further work in investigating global case studies of mentorship for women (full) professors and hold a second steering group meeting in order to review progress and gain feedback.

Professor Bruce Macfarlane
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Project leader

9th June 2016