

EINLADUNG ZUM KOLLOQUIUM

Gunnar Sivertsen

(Oslo)

„Two paradoxes of performance-based university funding systems“

Experience shows that performance-based funding systems for universities tend to undermine their own aims to the same degree as they affect reputation and funding. Under the pressure of expected consequences, the retrospective and summative information provided for the assessment becomes less reliable and useful. The formative purposes of evaluation are not achieved. The paradox is: Minimizing the effects on funding and reputation may better support the achievement of the aims. There is another paradox: Shared information with funders is important for the relative autonomy and self-governance of universities. Performance-based funding systems cannot function without creating evidence-based and transparent information. Such information has partly replaced the bureaucracy, the lobbyism behind closed doors, and the cronyism of the previous funding regimes. Minimal performance-based funding might be preferable to none. I will illustrate the two paradoxes with examples from different countries.

Gunnar Sivertsen is Research Professor at the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU) in Oslo, Norway. Sivertsen's research contributes to science-based innovation in the development of research evaluation, research funding, and the use of indicators. He has advised the development of the research evaluation and funding systems in several countries (e.g., BE, CN, CZ, DE, DK, FI, IS, GB, HR, NO, PL, PT, SE).

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