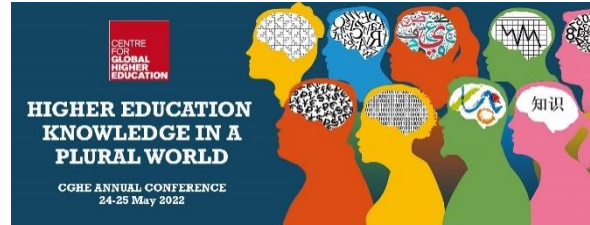


**CGHE Annual Conference**  
**24-25 May 2022: Session details**



**A historical lens on higher education staffing in France and the UK**

25 May 2022, 3.10-4.10pm (UK)

*Chair: Tristan McCowan*

*Speaker: Vincent Carpentier*

In this session, I propose to offer a historical lens on the debates on the present and future of the HE workforce in France and the UK. What are the key historical trends and patterns in the development of academic staffing in higher education in the UK and France? To what extent are they related to socioeconomic fluctuations, and particularly economic crises? What are the implications for today's debates? This project proposes to explore these questions by developing a historical and comparative analysis of the connections and tensions between the trends in funding, enrolment and staffing within HE and assess their wider implications. The empirical side of the project is based on the construction of datasets on academic staff in HE since the 1920s. During this presentation, I will focus on the historical trajectories of the expansion of HE systems and their workforce. I will compare the evolutions of student/staff ratios and financial resources. I am also interested in institutional differentiation and will consider the variations in resources and staffing across the sector and their implications. I will also look at the changes and continuities regarding the distribution of the HE workforce according to background, activities, positions, types and conditions of employment. I will conclude by highlighting key connections and tensions between the changes in the political economy of HE and the transformations of work within the sector in both countries.

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*Vincent Carpentier is a Co-Investigator and is responsible for CGHE Project 7, 'A historical lens on higher education staffing: UK and France'.*