

The death of human capital? Its failed promise and how to renew it in an age of disruption, 14 December 2021



00:49:21 Eliel Cohen: This is absolutely fascinating, and sobering. Just quick one on this 'National investment = economic growth' slide.

Quite a minor point, but any idea how this looks when we also factor in private expenditure on education? I assume places like South Korea and Taiwan would be off the chart if we added private as well as government expenditure.

00:49:48 Peter Scott: Two linked questions -

00:50:47 Simon Warren: As always, wonderfully provocative. Thank you. HCT has provided a legitimising discourse for funding of mass higher education. In re-imagining a new HCT do we also need to re-think the apparently 'progressive' argument for mass HE and re-imagine a progressive argument that does not presume mass HE? In Denmark, policy is moving in these directions: a) HE should have regional value, and b) not HE but vocational trainings needed (in a high employment environment)

00:52:04 Ellen Hazelkorn: Related question - what is the policy advice?

00:53:23 Peter Scott: Sorry - pressed wrong key! Even if we accept - as I do - that we need a more nuanced view with an emphasis on job scarcity rather than labour scarcity (as I do), how (a) do you wean university leaders off relying too much on the idea that HE 'pays' (earnings, productivity?)? (b) counter the conclusion that some politicians may draw that the solution is to cut back the number of students in HE?

00:53:25 Emma Sabzalieva: A common trope relates to the "skills gap" (between what graduates are 'trained' to do in HE and what they need to do in post-HE jobs). This seems closely connected to the main argument you are making about the failure of HCT; can you comment on this idea? Thank you for the presentation.

00:57:14 Golo Henseke: Thanks for the fascinating talk. A contribution of HCT was certainly to think of education as a valuable resources rather than (luxury) spending for the enjoyment of a small group. HCT also makes the case for public investment into education because of the wider benefits. Furthermore, HCT provides explanations why families can struggle to access higher education and what can be done about. How do you make the case for education?

00:58:36 mutia Alnimrat: good explanation

00:58:47 mutia Alnimrat: thanks

01:00:11 Francis Green: Another central plank of human capital theory is methodological individualism. In practice, this means the downplaying of social determinants of educational choice, and of educational externalities. I wonder how much this fundamental point plays an important role in your critique of HCT?

01:01:30 Yusuf İkbâl Oldaç: Very informative presentation, thank you very much! Can you elaborate more on what the alternative to the human capital narrative could be like? What do you think about student agency's role in this potential alternative narrative?

01:10:37 Simon Warren: In Denmark there is an intensification of human capital rationales with education programmes measured by employment rates and attacks on the humanities

01:10:44 James Robson: Thank you for an excellent presentation. Your critique of HCT is a really important way of problematising current dominant discourses about how we value education and helps us move away from the tyranny of salary data. You make an excellent case for the importance of rethinking the relationship between HE and the labour market. However, I wonder how rethinking labour supply and demand can best capture the complexities around the teaching-research nexus and the broader economic role universities play in innovation systems through knowledge spillovers, high skills eco-systems etc.

01:12:40 CGHE Webinars: Thank you for joining us today. A recording of this webinar will be online tomorrow morning: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/the-death-of-human-capital-its-failed-promise-and-how-to-renew-it-in-an-age-of-disruption/>

01:14:13 Simon Warren: Free, students receive funding to take education

01:14:41 CGHE Webinars: This is our last webinar of the year, thank you for all your attendance throughout the year. Our next webinar will be on Tuesday 11 January. Several 2022 webinars are listed now and you can view those here: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/>

01:16:37 mutia Alnimrat: Thank you. Happy holidays to all.

01:19:21 CRISTINA DE CARVALHO: thank you so much Sin and Hugh. Wonderful webinar! Thank you Simon for all webinars this year! Happy holidays! See you 2022!

01:22:09 C Sanger: I am reminded of the late David Graber's theory of 'rubbish jobs': that an awful lot of jobs don't really have much substance any more. For instance, they consist of the administration of other outsourced jobs or projects. Another point he used to make is that (eg) care jobs are low paid BECAUSE those who do them get 'paid' in job satisfaction

01:22:54 Kate Purcell: Thanks very much for a stimulating presentation Hugh and Sin Yi and, with Phil, a really important book. All of our research at the IER supports the arguments the you are making, especially the lack of opportunities for graduates to use and be adequately rewarded for their knowledge and skills. Our most recent research on the impact of the pandemic restrictions and economic impact on the employment security and careers of 2009-10 Futuretrack graduates ten years on shows unequivocally that the link between productivity and both social value and financial returns is very weak. The need for more

research on the social, as opposed to individual returns to HE seems to me to be the key research question now.

01:23:43 Emma Sabzalieva: Thanks CGHE for a great season of seminars. Happy holidays to all!

01:24:09 mutia Alnimrat: ❁

01:25:33 David Law: Thanks for helping to keep my brain engaged with issues that matter. Season's greetings.

01:26:22 André Elias: Thank you so much for this wonderful presentation. Very interesting ideas

01:26:23 Simon Warren: Thank you again. Always great scholarship. Look forward to more next year.

01:27:02 Qingling Kong: Thank you very much for the great conversations and rich food for thoughts. Season's greetings to all!

01:27:24 C Sanger: Yes, one of the high points of my week...

01:27:24 Soubin Sisavath: Thank you so much for the wonderful presentation.

01:27:27 Yuyan He: Thank you very much for this amazing session!

01:27:29 David Lock: Thanks Simon and all CGHE colleagues and seasons greetings to you all.

01:27:41 ANAN CHEN: Thank you all. Really interesting and provocative! Looking forward to more sessions!

01:27:43 Alexis Strippoli: Thanks CGHE an exceptional year of seminars!

01:27:46 Yusuf İkbāl Oldaç: Thank you for the great presentation, and CGHE colleagues. Season's greetings to all!

01:27:57 Victoria Trif: Thank you!

01:28:04 Ahmet Aypay: Thank you for great seminars!

01:28:20 Richard Tabulawa: A very interesting presentation. thank you so much.

01:28:42 Saumen Chattopadhyay: I must thank CGHE for presenting a year long series of seminars, Wishing you all the very best as the 2021 comes to an end, Saumen Chattopadhyay India

01:28:53 Satendra Kumar: Thank You for the presentation.

01:28:55 Chris Millward: Thank you Hugh and Sin Yi for an excellent presentation. Seasons greetings all.

01:29:16 Dauli kumari: Thanku for seminars