

Research Assessment: Encouraging Excellence or Undermining Quality? Lessons from the British Experience

*Distinguished Social Sciences
Public Lecture Series
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Professor John Scott

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Research Assessment, pioneered in the UK, has become a global trend, advocated by Governments as a means to improve the quality of research and encourage a framework of excellence. Funding decisions are increasingly tied to decisions made by assessment panels and to measures of performance. What are the consequences of this for academic

careers and publication? The lecture will draw on experience from participation in two Research Assessment Exercises and participation in the planning of a new Research Excellence Framework to consider how academics in Britain and Australia should respond to these developments.

John Scott has been at The University of Plymouth since October 2008. From 1994 to 2008 he was Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex, and before that he was Professor and Head of Department at the University of Leicester. He is Editor of the *European Societies*, the journal of the European Sociological Association, and has been an active member of the British Sociological Association since 1970. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA), and an academician of the Academy of Learned Society in the Social Sciences (AcSS). His publications include *Corporations, Classes and Capitalism* (1985), *A Matter of Record: Documentary Sources in Social Research* (1990), *Who Rules Britain?* (1991), *Social Network Analysis* (Second Edition, 2000), *Poverty and Wealth* (1994), *Sociological Theory* (1995), *Stratification and Power* (1996), and *Corporate Business and Capitalist Classes* (1997), and *Power* (2001). He is editor of the third edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of Sociology* (2005). His latest books are *Social Theory: Central Issues in Sociology* (2006), an overview of historical and contemporary debates, and three collections in the Routledge Key Guides series: *Sociology: The Key Concepts*, *Fifty Key Sociologists: The Formative Thinkers*, and *Fifty Key Sociologists: The Contemporary Thinkers*.

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