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Session 4.4a

The Value of Junior Research Institutes: enhancing the cultural capital of our graduates as degrees potentially become symbolic capital.

Sadie Hunt, University of Bedfordshire

Abstract

In the changing climate, where paying for a degree changes the perception of 'getting one' from cultural capital, to symbolic capital, how will we preserve the value of education, address employability and give value for money?

This presentation will discuss the development and findings of research conducted through creating and running a junior research institute, considering successes and lessons learned. Research conducted through a scheduled tour of the USA, exploring the ethos of undergraduate research in selected American Universities will also be discussed. Exploring Bourdieu's theories of capital, habitus, practice and field I will argue the importance of developing an undergraduate research ethos within universities and the important role they can play in preserving the values of a higher education.

Presenter details

Sadie Hunt

Lecturer in Dance at the University of Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire Teaching Fellow, and Head of the Junior Research Institute, Division of Performing Arts and English.

sadie.hunt@beds.ac.uk