



Kooperation und/oder Wettbewerb?

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My experience

- Historian
- University of Essex
- Arts & Humanities Research Board/Council
- Goldsmiths
- University of London
- Active in UK research policy
 - Universities UK
 - Higher Education Funding Council for England
 - esp. arts & humanities



Organisation of research in UK

- Public research mostly in universities
- Dual support funding system
 - QR – quality, RAE, mostly past, HEFCE block grant
 - Research Councils – project bids, forward-looking
 - importance QR varies greatly across disciplines
- Concentration
- Growth research funding under New Labour
- Full economic costing of research key issue
- Researcher volume rose as student numbers grew



Concentration of research funding

- Research Council funding
 - top 10 took 57% of total funding
 - top 30 took 90% of total funding
- HEFCE research funding (QR block grant)
 - top 10 took 46% of total funding
 - top 30 took 79% of total funding

c. 130 higher education institutions 2008-09



Independent research institutes UK

- Not common and rarely completely independent
only select group may compete for RC funding
- Some supported by major charities: Wellcome
- Most independent institutes located *in* universities
are mostly Research Council institutes
notably MRC, BBSRC (AHRC, ESRC time-limited)
- No proliferation independent institutes cf. Austria
- Why do they exist some countries not others?
function of university funding & environment?



Conditions of success UK research institutes

- Size
 - true interdisciplinarity; good funding
- Challenge
 - not automatic tenure
 - not comfortable environment, compete for grants
- Academic community accepts this separate funding
- Normally embedded in university
 - if big equipment means distant, links to university
 - see MRC on its National Inst for Medical Research



Research best if in universities? (1)

- Autonomous, self-managing, flexible
not policy-determined missions
- Strategic planning research & resource allocation
to meet external competition
- Universities combine funds flexibly for new initiatives
block grant + research council, industry, charity
- Competition for resources
internal and external



Research in universities....(2)

- Interdisciplinarity much easier
independent institute can freeze interdisciplinarity
need a building site not bridges
all disciplines *eg computing, music, neuroscience*
- Critical mass & scale?
not simplistic – reconceptualise what this means
- Research in a teaching environment
knowledge transfer on legs
research-aware graduates
absorptive capacity in economy



Conclusions from UK case?

- Much of relevance to proposals for change Austria
key criteria: quality, innovativeness, sustainability
- Independent research institutes rare UK
so collaboration/competition univs not the issue
- Concentration relevant to national research success
- Competition necessary but mustn't prevent collab'n
- Collaboration essential wherever research located
across disciplines, across univs, with business etc
collaboration cannot be *engineered* only *facilitated*
researchers make it happen, structures only stop it