The Future of the Californian Model of Higher Education

Fifty years on, Clark Kerr’s multiversity and the Californian Master Plan for Higher Education stand as signal high points in the building of not just great public institutions but high participation modern human society. Key features of the Californian Model have become a universal template for research universities and system design. High social participation in higher education, and research universities, are spreading all over the world. Yet the Californian Model of higher education was also specific to its own time and place, and the conditions in which it was born, and which nurtured its flourishing, have changed. The compact between individual self-realization and the common good which was the bedrock of the Model has been seriously eroded. Yet higher education has a deep capacity to address key global problems that neither states nor markets have been competent to solve, and the present encounter between universities East and West is shaping the future. In rebuilding the social foundations of higher education and creating a new and more internationalized Californian Model, there is much at stake.

Thursday, October 9, 2014, 3:00pm – 4:30pm
Geisel Library, Seuss Room
Reception Immediately Following the Lecture
Register here by Friday, October 3, 2014

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A distinguished scholar of remarkable depth and breadth, Professor Marginson draws on disciplines from sociology and history to political economy and political philosophy, bringing a consistently international and comparative perspective to a wide range of topics involving university systems, policy, and organization. During the past decade, he has done extensive research on globalization and higher education, the impact of university rankings and international competition, and the global strategies of leading Asian-Pacific research universities across 18 countries in the region. His most recent work deals with problems of equality, freedom, and creativity, and the role of public universities in creating the public good (more).