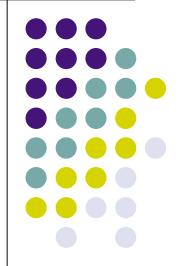
The changing political economy: the private and public lives of Canadian universities.

Fisher, D., & Rubenson, K., In Currie, J., & Newson, J. (1998). *Universities and globalization*. Sage. Chapter Four: pp.77-97.



### **Donald Fisher**





- Professor and Co-Director, Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and Training at UBC.
- Research Interests: Sociology of Education, Public Policy Analysis, Academic Industry and Culture of Universities, Philosophy, Privatization, The State and Educational Policy, Changing Conceptions of Academic Culture in Canada.
- B.Soc.Sc. (Birm.), Ph.D. (Calif., Berkeley)
- donald.fisher@ubc.ca



## Kjell Rubenson

- Acting Department Head and Professor, Educational Studies.
- Co-Director, Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and Training at UBC.
- Research Interests: Adult Education, Public Policy Analysis, Postsecondary Education and the Labour Market, Sociology of Adult Education, Theory Development, Social Movements and Adult Education.
- B.A., Ph.D. (Gothenburg)
- kjell.rubenson@ubc.ca

## **Brief summary**

- Government cutbacks lead to a new discourse on vocationalism
- Universities are becoming more market/industry oriented



## **Key Themes**

- Neo-liberalism/Globalization
- New vocationalism discourse
- Increased differentiation between and within universities
- Increased market emphasis and loss of traditional role for the public good



### Globalization

- Globalization has led us to an international movement of competing in the international marketplace
- Supported by corporate, government
- Evidence of global rearrangement and economic restructuring in Australia, New Zealand, the UK, Canada, the USA and parts of Europe
- Globalization=set of processes which in various ways--economic, cultural and political--make supranational connections



## **Pros?Cons? of Globalization**

- Global integration and national disintegration
- Transnational connectedness leads to educational policies which occur across the boundaries of nation states
- Globalization acknowledges hybrid identities and differences
- Flexible forms of production
- Restructured workplace organization
- Reliance on market forces as mode of regulation
- Emphasis on image and impression as way of shaping consumer choice



## **Pros?Cons? of Globalization**

- Technical-rational response to uncertainty
- Reliance on technology
- Full-time jobs replaced by part-time, insecure jobs
- Higher productivity through use of technology
- Lower wages, reduced social benefits, less protective working conditions
- Restructuring labor markets to include women, ethnic minorities and immigrant workers



## **Globalization & Public Education**

- Information technology
- Internet
- Instantaneous communication
- Standardization
- Uniformity of curriculum
- Heterogeneity and diversity
- Consumer oriented
- Product oriented



## **Globalization & Public Education**

- Globalization conflicts with ideology of learning
- Students=customers
- Teachers=producers
- Learning=outcomes
- Teachers become deskilled and driven by accountability, surveillance and measures of performance



## **Globalization & Public Education**



- Schools and teachers responsible for local decisions (but within prescribed guidelines)
- Schools have discretion over expenditures (but funding is decreasing)
- Fostering notion that competition is good (regardless if they are all operating on level playing field)
- Devolving responsibility for achieving learning outcomes (but within a context of accountability)
- Closer connection with business and industry

## **Globalization & Higher Education**



- "globalization must be the ugliest buzzword of the 1990s" (Wiseman, 1995)
- Do you agree or disagree?
- Come up with a metaphor or simile of your organization to illustrate how globalization has affected your organization.



#### Two main views of public spending: Monetarist and Keynesian

Monetarism is based on a view of the economy as self-stabilizing. In times of stringency, it is necessary to reduce spending, on the basis that increased saving will lead to growth later. If the government does not balance its budget, there will be inflation (money will be worth less) and there will be fewer resources available to the private sector for the economy to expand productively.

Keynesianism sees government intervention in the economy as necessary for the stability of the economy. Public spending is an important regulator which can be used to stimulate the economy at a time of a slump or to damp down growth if it happens too quickly. Unemployment is unnecessarily wasteful. In the long run, Keynes argued, the economy may correct itself; but in the long run, 'we are all dead'.

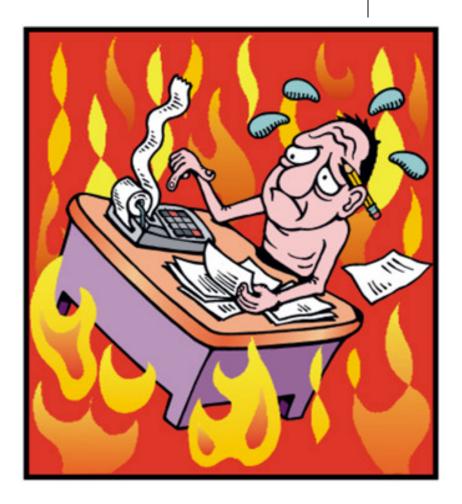
John Maynard Keynes Keynes: "the man who saved capitalism".

#### OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

- The OECD groups 30 member countries sharing a commitment to democratic government and the market economy. With active relationships with some 70 other countries, NGOs and civil society, it has a global reach. Best known for its publications and its statistics, its work covers economic and social issues from macroeconomics, to trade, education, development and science and innovation.
- The OECD plays a prominent role in fostering good governance in the public service and in corporate activity. It helps governments to ensure the responsiveness of key economic areas with sectoral monitoring. By deciphering emerging issues and identifying policies that work, it helps policy-makers adopt strategic orientations. It is well known for its individual country surveys and reviews .

## Authors' main argument

 If you had to distill these themes down to one main argument, what would it be?



## Independent study names SFU tops in research publication effectiveness

SFU faculty members are leaders in the rigorous competition for sponsored research funding in Canada, with success rates in the 2006/07 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council granting competitions exceeding national averages. In addition, SFU's success rate in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research granting competition was close to the national average—a considerable achievement given SFU's comprehensive status.

### **SSHRC**

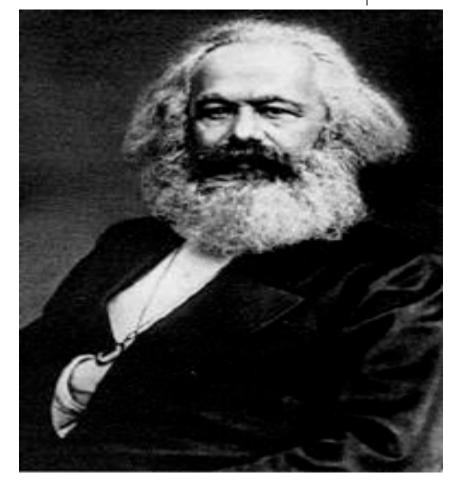


- The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) is an arm's-length federal agency that promotes and supports university-based research and training in the social sciences and humanities. Created by an act of Parliament in 1977, SSHRC is governed by a 22-member Council that reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry.
- SSHRC-funded research fuels innovative thinking about real life issues, including the economy, education, health care, the environment, immigration, globalization, language, ethics, peace, security, human rights, law, poverty, mass communication, politics, literature, addiction, pop culture, sexuality, religion, Aboriginal rights, the past, our future.

# Authors' ideological perspective or bias



- What bias/perspective do you suspect from your reading?
- Does this impair your ability to understand the real issues?





## What types of evidence do the authors use?

## Does the evidence support the conclusions?



## **Questions?**



What different views do administrators and faculty have for the following:

- the current vocational trend?
- the cost recovery trend?
- 'relevance' and 'accountability'

## Your organization...



Where does your organization fit in terms of Rubenson & Fisher's analysis?

- To whom is your organization accountable?
- to whom?
- for what?
- What are the consequences of not meeting goals (internal/external)?