

IMPROVING OUR RACE BY MARKET FORCES

OR

ACADEMIC THEME PARKS FOR THE SUPERIOR RICH AND EDUCATIONAL FOODBANKS FOR THE INFERIOR POOR

While attention has been focussed on the eugenicist, supremacist, Toby Young perhaps people have overlooked the new Office for Students itself, the Office that government wanted him to be part of.

It has been set up to regulate higher education as a market. It sees students as consumers, as does the House of Commons Education Committee that recently sent me a questionnaire wanting to know if I felt universities offered value for money. They assumed I was an undergraduate. We are destined for yet more of the private abuse of a public good¹.

Chair of the new organisation is Tony Blair's very own Mr. Deliverology, Michael Barber, who used to subject civil servants to death by power point and flow chart. New private providers are now more likely to be validated. Competition is one of the organisation's watchwords. Education is now very definitely a commodity to be traded in the market place. The Office shall demand data, data and yet more data because only by measuring can they decide league table positions. Quality shall be demonstrated by rank order and when you do that you need only provide some simple yardsticks. The trick will be to out manoeuvre your competitors. As for the customers: access to funds will definitely help.

Inspection becomes ever more important and if there is one thing we have learned about inspectors it is that they do not like complexity or uncertainty and have very little time to form a judgment. When they come make sure that you are seen to be hitting that target, whatever it is, given rapidly changing government policies. Or else suffer the consequences.

Government will present the Office for Students as a market regulator. Actually it is intended to be a market enabler completing the gradual transformation of education from a socially fulfilling and purposeful activity into the possessive individualism of Margaret Thatcher, political mother to Blair.

The division between grammar schools for approximately 20% of eleven year olds to enter and Secondary Moderns for the other 80% was based upon an assumption that only a few were worthy of selection and fulfilment. Eugenics is about racial 'improvement'. So, by the way, was the encouragement of birth control by Marie Stopes who wished to reduce the number of children produced by the poor. I am afraid that the extent of your wealth has been a

powerful determinant of both your perceived social worth and your access to formal education.

Eugenics seems to have been a theme of the writings and the work of Toby Young. Given Theresa May's wish to return to that 20:80 division of children at eleven we can assume that her support for his, now thwarted, appointment to the Office for Students was linked to her vision of Higher Education. She went to a grammar school and then to an academic theme park. So did her husband. Down the hill from her husband's boys grammar school is a mixed secondary modern (it does not call itself that any more, presumably to avoid old stigmas). Eugenic assumptions about what we should still refer to as Social Darwinism are not only insulting but also rather silly. Guess what inferior racial specimen went to the educational food bank down the road from Theresa May's husband; only the current 007.

Cliff Jones 12th January 2018

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Written in 2014 but still, I think, relevant.

<http://www.criticalprofessionallearning.co.uk/assets/SEARReviewBrownJacobs.pdf>