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**Author**

JOHNSTON, James (REEVES, Alan)

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An investigation into the role played by research assessment in the socio-geographic fragmentation of undergraduate economics education in the UK / James Johnston ; Alan Reeves

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**Abstract**

This study charts the socio-geographic fragmentation of the economics discipline in the UK. It is revealed that the marriage of economics teaching and research is now limited to elite institutions located mainly in the south of the UK. None of the UK's new (post-1992) universities submitted to the Economics and Econometrics (E&E) unit of assessment (UOA) in 2014, the UK's most recent research evaluation exercise (REE). Lower REE scores are shown to be associated with higher withdrawal rates from the next E&E UOA and subsequent undergraduate economics programme closure. Universities that exit the E&E UOA moving to the Business and Management (B&M) UOA appear to benefit in the form of higher REE scores. Though restricted to the experience of one academic discipline in one country, the lessons from this study yield important insights into how the results of REEs can be a principal driver of change in higher education. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Johnston, James, E-Mail: james.johnsto@uws.ac.uk