

04.6.2026

**Author**

WATERMEYER, Richard

**Title**

Challenges for university engagement in the UK : towards a public academe?

**Publication year**

2011

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education quarterly. - 65 (2011) 4, S. 386 - 410

**Inventory number**

30996

**Keywords**

Ausland : Großbritannien : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Hochschule und Öffentlichkeit ; Hochschule und Gesellschaft

**Abstract**

This paper considers the changing role of universities in the UK as they respond to an engagement agenda that stipulates a more immersive and visible interaction between academics and the public. It constitutes a survey of attitudes to public engagement in a selection of UK universities drawing on interviews with senior academics with managerial responsibility at the end of 2009. The results of this study reflect a mood of indecision and anxiety among respondents towards a public engagement agenda seen to influence the contours of their professional identities and working lives. The study situates academic accounts that contest the legitimacy of public engagement as a core academic activity and the role of academics in communicating with public groups. Moreover, it reveals a lack of agreement and consistency in the conceptualisation and application of public engagement in higher education contexts, certainly beyond an emergent discourse of research impact. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Watermeyer, Richard, E-Mail: watermeyer@cardiff.ac.uk