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**Abstract**

An agenda for future higher education research is proposed which incorporates four interconnected elements: changing social contexts; their implications for higher education; mechanisms of interaction between higher education and society; higher education's impact on society. The role of comparative research in investigating these topics is discussed and a set of priorities for future research questions is proposed. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Brennan, John, E-Mail: j.l.brennan@open.ac.uk