



At the Intersections of Money Markets and Transnational Higher Education Markets: Frictions, Volatility and Non-Circulation

Speaker: Professor Parvati Raghuram
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Chair: Assoc Professor Tracey Skelton
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Abstract

The exchange of money for education is often assumed to be a relatively seamless operation, judging by its invisibility in existing research on HE. This invisibility is, in part, because of the acceptance of an implicit national frame of analysis in discussions of higher education fee models. In this paper I draw on the experiences of international distance education students at the University of South Africa (UNISA) to explore the transnational financial systems that enable and disable their payments across borders. I look at the experiences of students in three countries. For Namibian students there is an easy flow of currency because South Africa and Namibia belong to a monetary union. Nigerian students are affected by the volatility of both oil prices, which markedly influences the Naira and that of the South African Rand while Zimbabwean students have lived through currency shortages, and inability to move currency across to South Africa. The Nigerians and Zimbabweans have had to adjust how many courses they study, i.e. how much education they 'purchase', based on what is happening in the money markets. The paper ends by suggesting some questions that linking discussions on education markets and currency markets poses for research on young people navigating the complex geopolitical terrain of money.

About the Speaker



Parvati Raghuram is Professor in Geography and Migration at the Open University. She came to the UK after her MA in India. She has published widely on retheorising migration of international students and skilled migrants. She is currently leading a grant on contextualising peace education in Nigeria and Zimbabwe. In this project she is looking at decolonisation of education as a pedagogical challenge in interdisciplinary and intercontinental research. She has co-authored *Gender, Migration and Social Reproduction* (Palgrave), *The Practice of Cultural Studies* (Sage), *Gender and International Migration in Europe* (Routledge) and co-edited *South Asian women in the diaspora* (Berg) and *Tracing Indian diaspora: Contexts, Memories, Representations* (Sage). She has written

for policy audiences having co-authored research papers for a number of think-tanks. She co-edits the journal *South Asian Diaspora* with the Centre for Study of Diaspora, Hyderabad and the Palgrave Pivot series *Mobility and Politics* with Martin Geiger and William Walters both at Ottawa.

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