



3rd
Max Weber Programme
Academic Careers Observatory
Conference

**“University Autonomy and the Globalization
of Academic Careers”**

San Domenico di Fiesole
Villa la Fonte, 12 November, 2008

It is often argued that in order to improve research and educational performance universities should be given sufficient institutional autonomy – this includes financial and managerial autonomy, academic and scientific autonomy as well as organisational and staffing autonomy – and that the academic market should be open and competitive. Such claims raise many questions. How do higher education systems differ according to their degree of autonomy and competition? Do differences in autonomy translate into differences in performance? How important are different forms of autonomy? How should public university academic contracts be determined? Which universities are successful examples of ‘university autonomy’? How should ‘autonomous public universities’ be made accountable? Which policy reforms should be implemented in order to make universities competitive in a globalized academic market? Why is it so difficult to implement some of these policies?

The one-day conference will focus on these, and related, issues with a special emphasis on the potential - and the limitations - of university autonomy to open-up and enhance academic careers in Europe, in the context of an increasingly globalized academic market.

Conference Programme

8.30: Registration

Session 1. Chair: Edith Sand, Max Weber Fellow

9.00: Introduction to the Conference by **Ramon Marimon**, Director of the Max Weber Programme

9.20: ***A European University Policy? An analysis of the EU's higher education, research and knowledge transfer policies***
Frans van Vught, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente
Discussant: Diego Muro, Max Weber Fellow

10.00: ***Academic labour markets in Europe: an analytical framework to understand their transformation***
Christine Musselin, Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, Paris
Discussant: Nikolaos Lavranos, Max Weber Fellow

10.40: Coffee Break

Session 2. Chair: Roger Schoenman, Max Weber Fellow

11.00: ***Towards Evidence-Based Reform of European Universities***
Reinhilde Veugelers, Catholic University of Leuven
Discussant: Frans Kaiser, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente

11.30: ***Budget uncertainty and faculty contracts: a dynamic framework for comparative analysis***
Maria Yudkevich, Higher School of Economics, Moscow
Discussant: Florian Schuett, Max Weber Fellow

12.00: ***Differential Grading Standards and University Funding: Evidence from Italy***
Mauro Sylos Labini, Institutions Markets Technology (IMT), Lucca
Discussant: Paolo Masella, Max Weber Fellow

12.30: Lunch (open to registered participants)

Session 3. Chair: Chiara Valentini, Max Weber Fellow

14.00: ***Why Reform Europe's Universities?***
Philippe Aghion, Harvard University (video-conference)
Discussant: David White, EU fellow, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

14.40: ***Globalisation and the regulation of academic careers: the case of the UK***
Mary Henkel, Brunel University
Discussant: Raya Muttarak, Max Weber Fellow

15.20: ***Autonomy, accountability and academic freedom: toward a good balance***
Emanuela Reale, CERIS CNR, Rome
Discussant: Lukas Baschung, University of Lausanne

16.00: Coffee Break

Session 4. Chair: Roberta Pergher, Max Weber Fellow

16.20: Final commentary by **David Dill**, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

16.45: General discussion with the MW fellows, with contributions by: **Fang Xu** (China/Asia), **Sami Miaari** (Israel and Arab countries), **Gaye Gungor** (Turkey) and **Mindia Vashakmadze** (Eastern Europe).

18.00: Reception (open to registered participants)

21.00: Dinner (by invitation only)

Scientific Committee

- ▲ **David Dill**, Department of Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- ▲ **José-Ginés Mora Ruiz**, Centre for the Study of Higher Education Management, Valencia University of Technology, and Institute of Education, University of London
- ▲ **Christine Musselin**, Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, CNRS, Paris
- ▲ **Ramon Marimon**, Max Weber Programme, European University Institute
- ▲ **Frans van Vught**, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, University of Twente
- ▲ **Reinhilde Veugeliers**, Catholic University of Leuven, Bureau of Economic Policy Advisors, EC