

# SKOPE Seminar Series:

## England's progress towards a tertiary education system

Hillary Term 2026

In May 2025, the British Educational Research Association (2025) published a series of blog special issues on potential pathways towards an integrated tertiary education system in England. Since then, the UK Government has announced that from 2026 it will introduce a lifelong learning entitlement for England, which will replace higher education student finance loans and advanced learner loans 'to create a single post-18 student funding system' (DfE, 2025). Additionally, the *Post-16 education and skills white paper* announced a number of measures to 'bring higher and further education providers closer together by simplifying the regulatory framework for higher level study' (HM Government, 2025, p. 43).

This series of seminars explores England's progress towards a tertiary education system, and puts this in a theoretical, historical, and comparative perspective. Each seminar will be held in hybrid mode at The University of Oxford's Department of Education (Seminar Room G/H) on Thursday from 22 January to 12 March 2026, from 4:15 pm to 5:45 pm.

**More events to follow**

<https://skope.ox.ac.uk/>

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**22  
JAN**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Dr James Robson (University of Oxford)**

How coordinated is the Post-16 education and skills white paper's plan for tertiary education?

[Registration](#)

**29  
JAN**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Prof. Ann-Marie Bathmaker (University of Birmingham)**

Thinking with Bourdieu to consider the potential and pitfalls of a tertiary education system in England: what can we learn from previous attempts to create further-higher integration?

[Registration](#)

**5  
FEB**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Dr Gavin Moodie (University of Oxford)**

How 'tertiary' is English post-secondary education?

[Registration](#)

**12  
FEB**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Prof. Huw Morris (University College London)**

From a patchwork to a panorama? Tertiary education in Wales 1997 to 2026

[Registration](#)

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**19  
FEB**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Prof. Leesa Wheelahan (University of Oxford) & Prof. Chris Millward (University of Birmingham / OfS)**

Tertiary education in England: Possibilities, potential & challenges for dual-sector integration.

[Registration](#)

**26  
FEB**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Dr Xin Xu & Dr Gonzalo Hidalgo Bazan (University of Oxford)**

What are the purposes of tertiary education? Unpacking diverse perspectives and politics in England

[Registration](#)

**5  
MAR**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Prof. Ellen Boeren (University of Glasgow)**

How systematic is Scotland's system of tertiary education?

[Registration](#)

**12  
MAR**

**16:15-17:45 Seminar Room G-H / Teams**

**Prof. Ellen Hazelkorn (BH Associates & TU Dublin)**

Tertiary Education in the Republic of Ireland

[Registration](#)

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