Quality Assurance
Beyond Academic Excellence
CHEA, 30 January 2020
The Quiet QA Revolution

- Clear principles, standards, criteria and processes
- International convergence
Academic Excellence Redefined

- Obsession with the rankings translates into focus on research
- Governments launch excellence initiatives accelerating this trend
- Universities plan and operate through the filter of the rankings
Four Key Dimensions

- Equity
- Societal Engagement
- The Pursuit of Truth
- Ethics
The Equity Challenge

- Access
Harvard students’ family incomes by national income quintile, for students born between 1980 and 1991
Courtesy of the Equality of Opportunity Project
Proportion of White Students in the USA

Selective Universities: 75%

Community Colleges: 57%
The Equity Challenge

- Access
- Success
The Equity Challenge

- Access
- Success
- Why should we care?
  - Social justice
  - Talent loss
## QA and Equity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Frequency of Countries who Monitor Equity only</th>
<th>Frequency of countries who include equity in QA only</th>
<th>Frequency of countries who do both QA and Monitoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia (11)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia (5)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and Caribbean (19)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa (4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America (2)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific (2)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia (5)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa (13)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe (10)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (71)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Equity Benchmarking

- Advanced: 6
- Established: 23
- Developing: 33
- Emerging: 9
Australia, Cuba, England, Ireland, New Zealand and Scotland
Societal Engagement

- Serving the community
- Serving the region
- Serving society at large
Definition
"circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief."
Brexit(s): the end of rationality

- Leaving the EU will save the UK millions of pounds
- We are done listening to the experts
- President Bush: “I don’t care what the facts say”
- Trump administration:
  - “We would like to present alternative facts”
  - “Sometimes we can disagree with the facts.”
Fake news, untruths and post-truth
Rejection of scientific evidence
Brexit(s)

- Evolution
- Climate change
- Vaccines
- Our world is flat
FLAT EARTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (USA) 2019

November 14-15, 2019 | Dallas, Texas

REGISTER

Save the date
Brexit(s)

- Evolution
- Climate change
- Vaccines
- Our world is flat
- Historical events and facts
- Academia has lost credibility, convincing power and respect
Critical thinking & respect for scientific evidence

- Distinguish between real evidence and fabricated information (truth-seeking skills)
- Reinstate academic tradition of free and fair debates, undermined by relativism and political correctness
- Rebuild trust in academics and science
- Improve communication channels between Universities and Society
The 2016 Lorne Trottier public science symposium series

Science and the Media: The challenge of reporting science responsibly

This year’s Trottier Symposium, *Science and the Media: The challenge of reporting science responsibly*, features four prominent journalists, all of whom are highly skilled in communicating science to the public. Whether it may be through their regular newspaper columns, online pieces, or investigative reporting, these speakers will address the challenge of living in this “Age of Anxiety” and how they do so in a responsible fashion.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Corruption ranking</th>
<th>Excellence ranking</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U Externado de Colombia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. Pontificia Javeriana</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Los Andes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Santo Tómas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Nacional de Colombia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Libre</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U del Rosario</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U de Antioquia</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U del Norte</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Most corrupt professions in Colombia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Finance, Economics and Accounting</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers &amp; Architects</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors and Dentists</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Sciences</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion
Fraud & Corruption

- Admission
- Plagiarism
- Fraud at exams
- Contract cheating
- Fraud in research
- Sexual harassment
- Degree mills (esp. online)
- Accreditation mills
- Fake academic journals and conferences
Regulations or Trust?
THE VANISHING VELÁZQUEZ
A 19TH-CENTURY BOOKSELLER'S OBSESSION WITH A LOST MASTERPIECE
LAURA CUMMING
Too much trust?

- FAA has delegated key security decisions to Boeing
- Internal culture of hastiness & cutting corners (profit-driven)
- Ignoring safety advice from key internal actors
Finding the Right Balance? Trust
QA as Partnership

• Intellectual and institutional independence

• Flexibility

• Collaboration
  • By and for the members
  • In partnership with all stakeholders and partners
• Trust is powerful

• Trust is fragile

• Trust is about the truth

• Trust is based on mutual respect
You won’t let me down, will you?