EDUCATION & SKILLS
Is Higher Education Good for You?
#LSEBeveridge #LSEFestival

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Professor Paul Dolan
Professor of Behavioural Science, LSE
Head, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science, LSE

Lord Willetts
Executive Chair, Resolution Foundation

Chair: Professor Julia Black
Pro Director, LSE
# Challenging the Edusceptics – the benefits of higher education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual non-economic benefits</th>
<th>Individual economic benefits</th>
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| • less likely to smoke, to drink excessively, to be obese;  
  • better general health;  
  • longer life expectancy;  
  • more likely to engage in preventative care;  
  • better mental health;  
  • greater life satisfaction. | • higher earnings;  
  • less exposure to unemployment;  
  • increased employability and skills development. |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wider non-economic benefits</th>
<th>Wider economic benefits</th>
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| • lower propensity to commit non-violent crime;  
  • greater propensity to vote;  
  • to volunteer;  
  • to trust and tolerate others;  
  • more dynamic cities. | • more tax receipts;  
  • increased exporting;  
  • improved productivity. |
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The Narrative Trap

We are expected to:
1. Reach for ever more wealth, success and education
2. View higher education as the route to a good life
3. Adopt the values of those with more education etc.

We must instead place greater value on:
1. A “just enough” approach rather than “more please”
2. Skills training and those who do not go into higher education
3. Diversity in what and how we teach; and when and to whom
Is higher education good for you?

- 87% of first year students find it difficult to cope with social and academic pressures

- 44% of students at Oxford reported that they felt stressed all or most of the time

- 40% of students reading English at Cambridge had been diagnosed with depression

- 18% of students at London Metropolitan University drop out in their first year
- 10% drop out rate amongst least advantaged

- “Lost happiness is lost forever”
Is higher education good for?

- High school diploma or less
- More than high school, less than Bachelors
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional or doctoral degree

Average pleasure out of 6
Average purpose out of 6
University education should be expanded from the current levels, for example to

80% of 18-21 year olds

When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/lsefestival

- Strongly agree: 12%
- Somewhat agree: 12%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 14%
- Somewhat disagree: 44%
- Strongly disagree: 19%
Higher education should be publicly funded

- Strongly agree: 32%
- Somewhat agree: 35%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4%
- Somewhat disagree: 18%
- Strongly disagree: 12%

Total Results: 130

When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/lsefestival