French higher education policies and social inequalities

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M2 EPOG+
1. Higher Education polarization
   - French higher education polarization
   - Competitive funding reinforces the polarization

2. LPR
   - Shanghai ranking again
   - Performance in research
Higher education has been massifying

In France, and in the Global North, massification is an ongoing but old process, since the 1960’s at least.

Source: *Repères et références statistiques*, 2000-2018, MESRI.
Higher education has been massifying

After 2005 in France, student enrollment is rising again.

Source: Repères et références statistiques, 2000-2020, MESRI.
Higher education has been massifying

After 2005 in France, student enrollment is rising again.
And won’t stop anytime soon.

Source: *Repères et références statistiques*, 2000-2020, MESRI.
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2 LPR
Methodology

**Database SISE (2009-2017)**
- universities and « grandes écoles »,
- Social background, social grant level, high school field (hierarchical)
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Principal component analysis : socio-academic capital
Information is very unidimensionnal : 36% of information is aligned, giving the « openness » of the university, social and academic.
Universites openness and main field
Universites openness and main field

Ouverture socio-scolaire
Universites openness and main field
Universites openness and main field
Higher Education polarization

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Competitive funding reinforces the polarization

Part des étudiantes dans les établissements du supérieur

H^2K - Education economics

Social inequalities
Higher Education polarization

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Répartition de la part des étudiantes par type d'établissement (2016)
Higher Education polarization

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Competitive funding reinforces the polarization

Part des boursiers dans les établissements du supérieur

H²K - Education economics

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Part des classes populaires dans les établissements du supérieur

H²K - Education economics

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Higher Education polarization

LPR

Competitive funding reinforces the polarization

Part des bacheliers pro dans les établissements du supérieur

 Nb étudiants
- 20 000
- 40 000
- 60 000

Bac pro
- 0.5
- 0.4
- 0.3
- 0.2
- 0.1
- 0.0

Social inequalities

H^2K - Education economics

H^2K - Social inequalities
Racial polarization
Internal polarisation, L (bachelor) vs M (post-graduate), just as excellence funding!
Post-graduate are being more selective socially
Post-graduate are being more selective socially
Strong social and educational discrepancies between institutions

- Working class students vary from 6% to 14% from downtown to suburbs institutions.
- Students from **vocationnal highschool** only access to working class institutions.
- Women are also over-represented there.
The polarization rises since 2007 (« autonomy » law)

Socially elitist institutions avoid massification.
« Excellence » public policies are social classes policies

**Competitive funding:**

- **ANR (2005)** Replace block grant for research
- **ERC (2007)** European projects for « principal investigator »
- **PIA (2010)** Huge campus investments (billions)
- **LPR (2022)** Overhead
« Excellence » public policies are social classes policies

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- Strong social and education discrepancies:
- Bachelor universities vs research universities,
- Competitive funding only are only awarded to socially elitist institution

Public funding based on « research excellence » concentrates public funding to favored students: mainly for masters in socially elitists institutions.
The same institutions (Udise) concentrate excellence fundings and favored students.
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Higher Education polarization

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Competitive funding reinforces the polarization
Higher Education polarization

LPR

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Etablissements de Saclay

SupOptique

Telecom SudParis

ENSTA

SUPELEC

IPP

AGRO

POLYTECHNIQUE CENTRALE

ENSAE

TELECOM PARISTECH

MarqueSaclay

ENS Cachan

VERSAILLES - ST QUENTIN

COMUE UNIVERSITE PARIS-SACLAY

VERSAILLES - ST QUENTIN

PARIS XI

VERSAILLES - ST QUENTIN

EUIC

EVRY VAL D'ESSONNE

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H^2^K - Education economics

Social inequalities
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2 LPR
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   - Performance in research
Thierry Coulhon, 2019, head of the evaluation agency

"Evaluation must find it’s full effect, [...] rebuild a link with funding [...] We need grades precise and balanced, but clear and usable."
Performance in research

Do competitive grants incentivize performance in research? China and other emerging countries are increasing their share in research production and citations.

*Evolution of the world share of scientific production for selected countries, 1996-2015.*

Source: Courtioux et al. (2019).
A basic explanation

Scientific production is very linearly linked with public spending. Whatever the funding scheme.

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