Employability: identity and student agency

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Employability: identity and student agency
A phenomenological case study

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Background

• Critical appraisal of employability frameworks
• Where does the student fit in?
• What does the student say?
• Does it support emerging student identity?

Research Questions

• What are the effects of engagement with courses where employability has been embedded into the curriculum?
• What are the benefits of engagement with employability over the course of study and beyond?
• How effective is employability in developing different types of capital to support emerging identities?

Method and data collection

• Phenomenological methodology
• Semi structured interviews
• Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA)

Emerging themes

• Micro: What do students say about employability – what do they make of it? Can we develop a more sophisticated approach to employability which engages student rather than sees student as an object being made ‘employable’?
• Meso: impact on institutional approaches to employability (University, Faculty, Qualification)
• Macro: influence debate and direction of employability narrative at national policy level

References

https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp062oa.

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