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


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