

# Professor Simon Marginson

## Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

### Citation

Professor Simon W. Marginson graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1974 with a BA degree in history and politics. After 15 years of work as a policy research officer for various unions in Australia representing tertiary students, school teachers and academic staff in higher education, he joined the Centre for the Study of Higher Education (CSHE) at the University of Melbourne in 1993 as a senior lecturer, and later became an associate professor/ Reader. During this period, he also earned a PhD degree in education at the University of Melbourne in 1996.

Prof Marginson joined Monash University in Melbourne as Reader in the Faculty of Education in 1998, and was appointed to a Personal Chair two years later; he also directed the Monash Centre for Research in International Education. He returned to the University of Melbourne as Professor at CSHE in 2006, and moved to the UK in 2013 to become Professor of International Higher Education at the Institute of Education (IOE) in University College London (UCL), University of London. At present he is also serving as Director of the Centre for Global Higher Education, which is based at IOE of UCL, spearheading 16 initial research projects in collaboration with over three dozen scholars at five UK and eight international partner universities; the Centre is funded by the UK Economic & Social Research Council and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (ESRC/ HEFCE). Prof Marginson also remains affiliated with the University of Melbourne as an honorary professorial fellow at CSHE.

Prof Marginson is one of the leading scholars in the world in the field of higher education studies; he has published research work in the topic areas of higher education and globalisation, higher education and social inequality, and international and comparative higher education. Moving between conceptual inquiry and qualitative research based on observation, he seeks to better elucidate higher education and thus to lead to better policy and practice. In the 1990s he was an early and frequently published critic of the neoliberal framework for education policy, which promotes the role of market competition in higher education. This policy direction had led to reduced public funding of higher education, as well as greater inequalities among the academic disciplines in the levels of research funding that they receive.

In comparative work, Prof Marginson stresses multi-positionality and learning from the other, such as reflecting on a “post-Confucian model” of higher education that can help to cast light on the dynamism of higher education and science in East Asia. An English-language scholar of education keenly interested in Chinese and East Asian civilisations, he is aware of both the similarities and the differences between East Asian approaches and those of the UK and the US, and is respectful of the long, deep commitment to self-cultivation and learning as well as the modern achievements of East Asian education systems. In his current work he is investigating higher education as a process of self-formation, drawing on a range of ideas such as Chinese notions of self-cultivation and German notions of *bildung*. Prof Marginson himself “soaks up” knowledge from a broad spectrum of areas and disciplines; the fact that Tolstoy’s hefty *War and Peace* stands as his favourite novel is probably indicative of his scholarly temperament.

Essentially, Prof Marginson sees himself in terms of the “core functions” of being “a writer of non-fiction and a public intellectual”, on top of his teaching duties and his administrative work as a

research director. A social scientist inflected by a humanist sensibility and working across the East-West axis, he thinks it is in his writing that his main work is done. Seeing “all economy as economy of time”, yet well aware that scholarship is “not one Eureka moment, but many smaller insights that aggregate”, he has written, co-authored and edited 25 books as well as over 350 journal articles, review essays and book chapters. Prof Marginson is one of the most cited researchers in the field; he draws on and integrates a wide spectrum of social science disciplines in his work, ranging from political economy and sociology, social and cultural theory, to history and political philosophy. To date four of his books have been translated into Chinese; other research papers have been translated into Chinese, French, Spanish and Polish.

One of Prof Marginson’s most recent books, titled *Higher Education and the Common Good*, focuses on the role of higher education in advancing the public good, local as well as global. In his view, “the public good aspects of higher education, those not reducible to private economic benefits for individuals, tend to be neglected in policy and the public mind”. While universities can and should be “makers of equality of opportunity”, the “growing emphasis on the private benefits of higher education, without regard for its public benefits”, has turned the sector into “a maker of social inequality rather than a corrective to it”. As higher education turns ever more competitive and stratified, putting a premium on elite ranking and its market value, higher education labours under a “quasi-aristocratic economics” that distorts the very aim of education. Higher education dwindles in social value, and the collective public benefits of universities are often ignored. Despite sounding such a stern warning, Prof Marginson is convinced that higher education has a key role to play in rebuilding social mobility and solidarity in fractured societies.

In addition to his prolific and diverse academic research, Prof Marginson is a socially engaged scholar who has taken up multiple editorial, advisory, and policy roles across the globe. He is joint Editor-in-chief of *Higher Education*, the main journal in higher education, Commissioning Editor of *Thesis Eleven*, a member of the editorial board of 16 academic journals, and joint editor of the Palgrave Macmillan book series on “global studies in higher education”; he was also former editor of the *Australian Journal of Education*. Prof Marginson has prepared policy papers for the United Nations’ Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) and the European Commission, as well as reports for the governments of Australia and New Zealand, Ireland and the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam. Prof Marginson also has advisory roles in a number of reputed universities and institutions internationally, ranging from the Centre for International Higher Education at Peking University to the American Council on Education and the Global Forum on Indian Higher Education.

Not surprisingly, Prof Marginson has received multiple honours and awards in the course of his outstanding academic career. In 2014 he was the Clark Kerr Lecturer on Higher Education at the University of California at Berkeley, and he won the Distinguished Research Award from the Association for Studies of Higher Education in the US in the same year. He is a member of Academia Europaea, a Lifetime Fellow of the Society for Research into Higher Education in the UK, and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia. As an expert in comparative education, he has been a visiting professor at institutions of higher learning in Japan and Russia.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his outstanding academic achievement as well as his broad contributions to society in the field of global higher education, may I present Prof Simon Marginson to you for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Charles Kwong*

# Simon Marginson 教授

榮譽社會科學博士

## 贊辭

Marginson教授1974年畢業於墨爾本大學，獲文學士學位，主修歷史及政治科學。他曾在各個代表大專學生、學校教師和高等教育界教員的澳洲工會工作，任職政策研究人員15年，1993年加入墨爾本大學高等教育研習中心擔任高級講師，其後晉升為副教授/準教授。在此期間，他亦於1996年取得墨爾本大學教育學的哲學博士學位。

Marginson教授於1998年轉到墨爾本的莫納什大學，任教育學院的準教授，兩年後升任教授。他亦是該校國際教育研究中心的主任。Marginson教授於2006年回歸墨爾本大學高等教育研習中心擔任教授，於2013年赴英國倫敦大學的倫敦大學學院，出任教育所的國際高等教育學教授。目前他身兼全球高等教育中心主任，與分別來自五所英國大學及八所國際夥伴大學約四十位學者合作，主持16個領銜研究計劃。該中心由聯合王國經濟及社會研究局與英格蘭高等教育經費局(ESRC/ HEFCE)資助，以倫敦大學學院的教育所為根據地。Marginson教授亦繼續在墨爾本大學高等教育研習中心擔任榮譽教授級學人。

Marginson教授是高等教育研究領域中最出類拔萃的學者之一；他出版的研究成果涵蓋高等教育與全球化、高等教育與社會不均、國際與比較高等教育等範疇。他往復於概念探究及以觀察為本的質性研究之間，嘗試更完善地闡釋高等教育，從而引領出更良好的政策和實踐。在1990年代，他是對新自由主義的教育政策最早及最經常發表意見的論者之一。這個框架下的政策方向，強調市場競爭在高等教育的角色，導致高等教育的公共資助減少，並在不同學科之間獲取研究經費方面造成更大的不均。

在比較研究方面，Marginson教授著重多方位和向他人學習，例如思考一種「後儒家模式」的高等教育，以幫助闡明東亞地區內高等教育和科學的動力。作為英語世界的教育學者，他對中文和東亞文明深感興趣。他關注東亞地區與英美教育方法的異同，尊重東亞教育系統中對修身和學習的深厚承擔及其現代成就。他目前的工作正是探究高等教育作為自我塑造的過程，當中涉及不同觀念，例如中國的修身概念和德國的「教化」概念。Marginson教授本人亦「浸淫」於廣泛的領域和學科知識中；他最喜愛的小說是托爾斯泰的巨著《戰爭與和平》，多少顯示出他的學者氣質。

除了教學職務和作為研究主管的行政工作外，Marginson教授大體視自己的「核心職能」為「非小說的作者和參與公務的知識份子」。作為一位具有人文觸覺、在中西文化軸線上工作的社會科學家，他認為自己的主要工作在於寫作。他認為「一切經濟都是時間的經濟」，卻深知學問「不是『成功的瞬間』，而是由許多細小的見解匯聚而成。」他已撰述、合著及編輯了25本書和超過350篇期刊論文、述評文章和書本章節。Marginson教授是行內被引用得最多的學者之一；他的研究汲取和匯合了多方面的社會科學學科知識，包括政治經濟和社會學、社會和文化理論、歷史和政治哲學等。他的著作至今有四本被翻譯成中文；另有研究論文被譯成中文、法文、西班牙文和波蘭文。

Marginson教授最新的著作之一，題為《高等教育與公共福祉》。此書集中探討高等教育在推動本土以至世界公益方面的角色。在他看來，「高等教育的公益方面，即那些不能縮窄為個人經濟利益的意義，往往在政策和民意中被漠視。」本來大學可以、亦應該是「平等機會的製造者」，然而「高等教育日益強調私人利益，沒有考慮其公共利益」，將這個界別變成「社會不均的製造者而並非糾正者」。當高等教育愈發加劇競爭和級別分野，抬舉精英級別及其市場價值，高等教育就被一種「半貴族式的經濟學」奴役，扭曲教育的初衷。高等教育的社會價值萎縮，而大學的集體公益亦往往被忽視。儘管發出如斯嚴峻的警告，Marginson教授仍然深信高等教育在重建社會流動性和修補社會撕裂上，能夠扮演關鍵的角色。

除了豐富多樣的學術研究外，Marginson教授是一位積極投入社會的學者，在全球各地擔任多個編輯、顧問和政策角色。他是《高等教育》(高等教育界主要學術期刊)的聯席主編，《論文十一》的策劃編輯，16份學術期刊的編輯委員會成員，以及Palgrave Macmillan出版社「國際高等教育研究」叢書的聯席編輯；他亦是《澳洲教育期刊》前編輯。Marginson教授曾為聯合國經濟合作暨發展組織(OECD)和歐洲聯盟委員會發表政策學術文章，為澳洲、紐西蘭、愛爾蘭、荷蘭、香港、日本、馬來西亞和越南政府撰寫報告。他亦在眾多國際知名大學和機構擔任顧問，包括北京大學國際高等教育中心、美國教育評議會、印度高等教育全球論壇等。

無怪Marginson教授在其傑出的學術生涯中，先後獲得多個榮譽和獎項。他在2014年任加州大學伯克萊分校的「克拉克·克爾高等教育講師」，同年贏得美國高等教育研究協會的傑出研究獎。他是歐洲人文和自然科學院成員、聯合王國高等教育研究學會終身研究員，以及澳洲社會科學院院士。作為一位比較教育學的專家，他曾擔任日本和俄羅斯的高等學府的客座教授。

主席先生，為表揚Marginson教授傑出的學術成就以及他在全球高等教育領域對社會的廣泛貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽社會科學博士學位予Simon Marginson教授。

贊辭由鄺龔子教授撰寫及宣讀