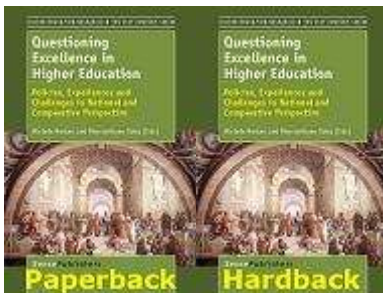


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QUESTIONING EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Policies, Experiences and Challenges in National and Comparative Perspective

Edited by Michele Rostan and Massimiliano Vaira

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Questioning Excellence in Higher Education casts an empirical and critical glance on how the rhetoric of excellence has emerged, diffused and affected the higher education sector, in an international and comparative perspective. Far from being taken for granted and being a neutral or technical concept, excellence is heavily infused with values. The contributors here collected analyze and problematize it, highlighting its underlying assumptions, vocabularies and aims, as well as showing tensions, contradictions and unintended outcomes.

This book offers several insights, ranging from policies to practices, mainly based on research results and empirical evidence, aiming at questioning the concept and its uses and it is addressed to an international audience and in particular to higher education scholars and professionals. Those who are involved in higher education assessment, members of professional bodies and organizations in the higher education field, students in education, but also policy makers and the public opinion at large will profit from the works of a selected group of scholars coming from a variety of countries.

The book's chapters are a selection of revised papers originally presented at the 21st CHER Conference "Excellence and Diversity in Higher Education. Meanings, Goals, and Instruments." held at Pavia University in 2008.

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