

Excellere: Seeking What?

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Abstract: This paper addresses the meaning and limits of *excellence* and the processes whereby such meanings might seek legitimation. It promulgates the relations between discourses of *excellence* and of education in the university setting. The paper engages a poststructuralist mode of questioning, referencing the work of Bill Readings (1996, 1997) and Jean-François Lyotard (1984). Questions are raised, such as: what is this *excellence* that we are seeking, from whence is it derived, and how is it framed? In a globalised knowledge economy it would appear that *excellence* has become a unifying métier through which knowledge is legitimated as an informational transaction. Building on research in Grierson (2000), the paper argues that any implicit meaning and value of *excellence* must be continually put to the test as the contexts and values of 'knowledge' undergo change in the transformations of higher education.

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