International education:
Morphing a profit-making business into an intercultural experience

Tuesday, 21st February 2012
12:30 - 1:30 pm
Lecture Theatre 20.5

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Watch out for more on the ASD Staff Development Calendar:

Is international education an intercultural experience for international students and local students both?

We wish! But the research tells us it can be done. Aside from hard work in the classroom, the keys to successful international education are student confidence and initiative, competence in communication, and good mixing with locals. Often these factors go together, but they are not the same and problems in one area can undermine everything else. Often the interaction with locals is missing and this holds everything back.

The research makes it clear that most international students want to make friends with locals and they are prepared to take risks and try new things. The hard part is motivating local students, many of whom still need to be persuaded that they too can take risks, step out of the comfort zone, and grow as people through their intercultural experiences.

Professor Simon Marginson
Professor of Higher Education
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Simon’s work focuses on higher education systems and policy, especially international and global aspects of higher education. He has held continuous Australian Research Council project funding since 1995 and was designated an Australian Professorial Fellow in 2003.

Current projects are focused on the global strategies of research universities in the Asia-Pacific (a comparison across 18 countries) and on relations between public and private sector research organizations in the knowledge economy (a comparison of Australia, the Netherlands and Korea), and he is also preparing a monograph on globalization and higher education.

Simon is widely published in the academic literature on international higher education, is a regular public and media commentator on higher education, and has completed policy-related research for the OECD, the European Commission, and the governments of Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Vietnam among others.

Simon’s 2010 Cambridge University Press book with Chris Nyland, Erlenawati Sawir and Helen Forbes-Mewett, International Student Security, was the culmination of six years of research on international student welfare and rights. 2010 also saw the release of two books on the culture of the knowledge economy with Peter Murphy and Michael Peters, Global Creation and Imagination, both of which are published by Peter Lang in New York.