

# Ethics and higher education quality assurance

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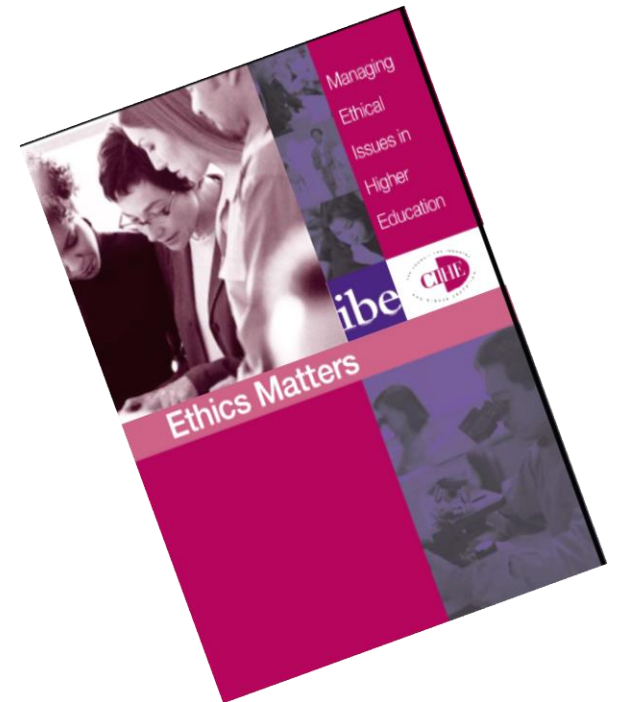


**Universiteit  
Leiden**  
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# ‘Ethics’ and higher education policy:

International, national and institutional level

The Bucharest Declaration  
concerning Ethical Values and Principles  
for Higher Education in the Europe Region



What is a Moral University in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

Toward a Culture of University Ethics

...

# Ethical challenges in HE

- Higher education and academic standards
  - Diploma fraud, dubious recruitment practices, transnational education
  - Academic standards, grade inflation, but also admission and assessment fraud
- Ethics and a curriculum
  - Professional ethics, plagiarism
- Research integrity
  - Conflict of interest, disclosure restrictions
  - Research integrity: fraud, relevance
  - Access
- Governance
  - Moral obligations to society
  - Freedom of speech and current politics

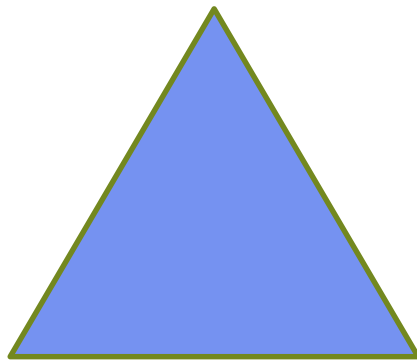


# Ethical challenges in HE

Universities as value-laden institutions: ....

Ethical bridges as the fault of marketization? But:

- 'New economy': purpose driven companies
- Old economy: a social responsibility dimension
- Alternative ways to see a market logic: value embeddedness

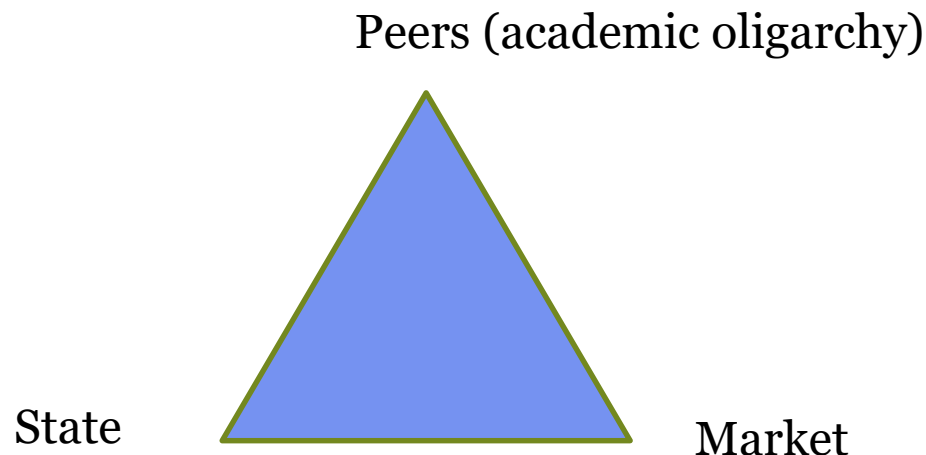


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# Governance reforms

Accountability and public trust:

- external quality control (instrumental rational logic)
- trust in professional norms (norms and socialization)

**MORE TRUST!!!**

... does it work?

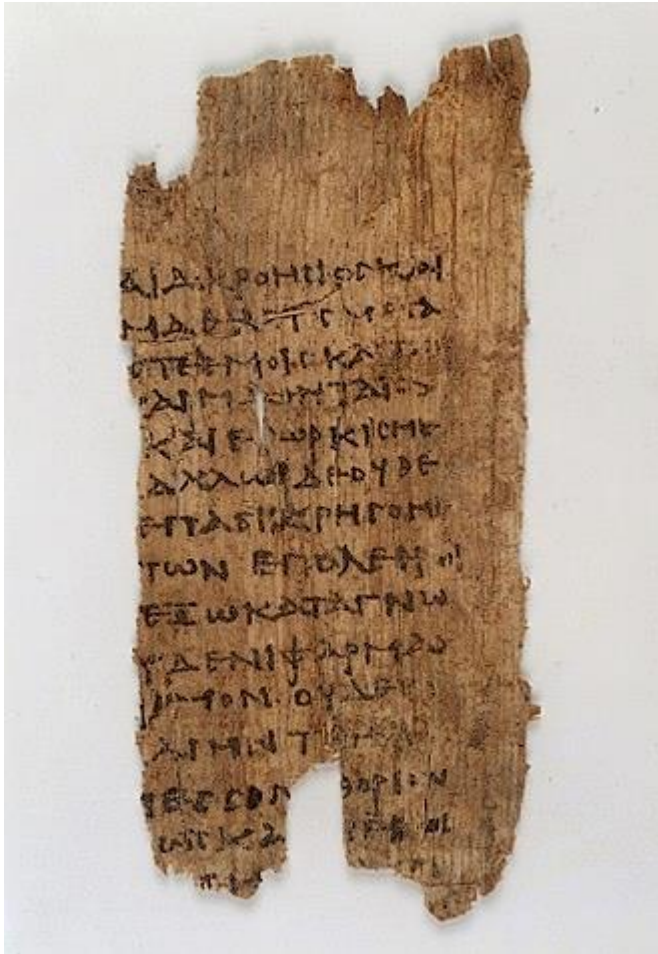
Increasing interest in self-regulation:

- complexity, commitment, legitimacy
- responsibility for quality lies within the organization

# Ethics and self-regulation

- Self regulation
  - Corporate responses: Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct
  - Limited success
  - Success factors: leadership, structures and institutions
  - Enforced self-regulation
  
- Professional ethics
  - Limits of professional ethics: ‘Conspiracy against laity?’
  - Value of professional ethics: values, norms, control

# Professional ethics: norms and competence



- Norms:

- Academic values: tensions but stable
- The value of ambiguity
- Managerial vs professional logic with organization

- Competences:

- Professionalisation of the teaching function



# Regulating HE quality

Three types of regulatory focus:

- Performance based
- Technology based
- Management based
  - technical approach
  - cultivating professional ethics: norms and values; competences

Responsibility of the profession itself:

- protect and develop professional norms
- enforce professional norms

# Ethics and higher education

- ‘Social responsibility’ of universities
  - ‘managing’ ethics
  - unique to individual institutions
  - bureaucratization of ethics
- University ideals
- Professional ethics: individual level
  - Responsibility for external stakeholders, universities, the profession itself



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