

# Pedagogy and the Purposes of Education: comparing Scottish and Danish experiences and links to UK, Nordic & Continental inspirations

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*SERA 2023 Queen Margaret University, 22nd to 24th*

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## Theoretical perspective

- Schooling torn between markets and public good
- Exploring Scotland and Denmark as UK- vs Nordic-dependent solutions

### **Viewed through:**

- Scalar & topological view on educational geographies
- Governmentality: regimes of practice

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## Scaling up Danish identity in Nordic perspective

- ▶ The dream of welfare and public good challenged
  - ▶ Welfare, 'soft voice', consensus
- ▶ Education myths/ realities
  - ▶ Equity, democratic pedagogy, low-stakes, pedagogik to educational research

## Scaling up Scottish identity in UK/US perspective

The British dimension/model high-stakes !?!

Shifting from society to family and the individual: UK context (Thatcher)

Anti-industrial strategy as means to shift UK to service-based economy

The soft global voice (US alignment): the hard global voice: Falklands, Iraq

Multicultural education: the rise of authoritarian precepts – riots/unrest

Low trust, surveillance culture introduced (England): inspection, curriculum - alternatives in Scotland

Control to centre (England); distrust (England); Scottish maintenance of HMIe, non-statutory curriculum.

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- ▶ The British dimension/model high-stakes !?!
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  - ▶ Anti-industrial strategy as means to shift UK to service-based economy
- ▶ The soft global voice (US alignment): the hard global voice: Falklands, Iraq
  - ▶ Multicultural education: the rise of authoritarian precepts – riots/unrest
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## Transnational collaboration transforming the Danish/Nordic

- The quasi-market challenge [1990s +]
- Comparability, out-put orientation, competences, evaluation /test
- Mediation of the Nordic via transnational comparisons
- *Comparability: becoming fit for market competition or ... just excellence*
  - The 2000 turn around: from progressive Sweden and Denmark to awe-inspiring Finland
  - The different models for private schools
  - The different models for teacher education: Finland, followed by Iceland and Norway >< Denmark
- Lagging behind 'Bologna Process' - truth regime


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## Transnational collaboration transforming Scotland

- European (transnational turn): OECD & EU .... IEA and the Bologna Process (somewhat)
  - Comparability, out-put orientation, competences, evaluation/test
- Transformed meaning of Scotland in the UK – significant part of news and current affairs
  - 'Scottishness' reinvigorated: more than sporting rivalry; challenge to histories of Empire (devolution/SNP)
- Market positionality; Benign market?
- Post 2011 shift: inward referencing against desire; outward referencing to Nordic and Baltic states:
- The different models for public/private schools:
- Teacher education remains


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## Post-2016 - Market-model weakening!?!

- National(ist) resurgence – public good or public bad?
- Nordic variations (Bergman 2017):
  - Global national(ist) resurgence spillovers: questioning transnational values; refugee crisis and so forth
  - Danish People's Party, The Swedish Democrats, The Norwegian Progress Party; The Finns Party (the True Finns)
  - The Cultural Conservative backlash: 'Danish values': The cultural values struggle
  - Unholy alliance between progressive left and national(ist)-conservative right

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## Scotland Post-2011/4/6 - Market-model weakening!?!

- UK variation:
  - Global national(ist) resurgence (BREXIT!): (re)assertion of British (qua English) values
  - Shift to 'the right': proroguing Westminster; withdrawal from Human Rights law?
  - Shift to the right: (New) New Labour 'democracy': curbs on immigration; imposed central candidate selection
  - Scotland: foundational challenge to UK; 'Civic Nationalism'; mitigation of 'English' policies
- Changes in Scottish education policies:
  - Debates over 'educational standards': e.g., test results Vs positive destinations
  - 'Whole-child' education; local interpretations but central direction
  - 'Scottishness': Scots texts; Gàidhlig; rural and remote connections
  - Challenge the 'two-term dash' (OECD, 2021)
  - Scotland, a 'welcoming nation': civic mindedness

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## Findings: Similarities and differences between Scotland and Denmark

- Denmark:
  - The Nordic as space for qualification before going transnational.... And for recontextualization after.
  - The Nordic as myth ... or reality!?!
- Scotland:
  - UK as potential and/or trap?
  - Connection seen as means to advance (Scotland); Connections seen as means to control the agenda of others (England)
  - Outward referencing to Norden and Baltic States referential but flawed – a space for the 'Scottish Myth' referenced to the 'Nordic Myth'
  - Conservative financially/socially/culturally but open and welcoming as a means for challenge
- Potentials for collaboration and mutual learning:
- Amassing critical mass by joining forces