



# The Idea Of Higher Education (Society for Research Into Higher Education)

*By Ronald Barnett*

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## **The Idea Of Higher Education (Society for Research Into Higher Education)**

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Despite an increasing volume of talk about and a growing literature on higher education, very little of it asks the question - what, in essence is higher education? The tradition of overarching thinking about higher education - from Newman onwards - has almost vanished. The debate has focused, instead, on technical, administrative, financial and narrow academic concerns and the terms of discussion have been framed by concepts such as efficiency, unit costs, access and the needs of industry - none of which focus on higher education as such. There is, therefore, a need for the aims of higher education to be restated in modern terms.

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Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #2349363 in Books
- Published on: 1990-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .58" w x 5.98" l, .77 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

Ronald Barnett is Professor of Higher Education at the Institute of Education, University of London where, from 1994 to 2001, he was also Dean of Professional Development. His books include *The Idea of Higher Education*, *The Limits of Competence*, *Higher Education: A Critical Business*, *Realizing the University* and *Beyond All Reason* (all published by Open University Press).

Kelly Coate is Research Officer in the School of Lifelong Education and International Development at the Institute of Education, University of London. Her research interests are in the areas of teaching and learning in higher education, the higher education curriculum, and social justice and equity issues.

Jill Barnett is the "New York Times" bestselling author of fifteen acclaimed novels and short stories. There are more than five million copies of her books in print in seventeen languages. Her work has earned her a place on such national bestseller lists as "The New York Times", "USA Today", "The Washington Post", and "Publishers Weekly". She lives in the Pacific Northwest. Visit her website at [www.jillbarnett.com](http://www.jillbarnett.com).

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