



**UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU**

Faculty of Education

Centre for Research on Lifelong
Learning and Education CELE



OPEN LECTURE

Understanding the Business of Education: A Challenge for Education Research

by Prof. Marcelo Parreira do Amaral

Abstract

The Business of Education has become a central research and teaching field in higher education and beyond which goes well beyond the influence of private interests in shaping policy-making or the expansion of private schooling. The Business of Education refers to a global economic sector in which a broad range of educational services and goods are produced, exchanged and consumed. The current exponential growth of the field has been backed by social and technological transformations, but also due to global crises such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemics which opened up new windows of opportunity for providers of (digital) education solutions and created a new demand on user-side. Controversies abound as to the impact and/or side-effects of these developments beyond their purely economic import. Indeed, at present many scholarly debates can be found as to the future of the sector as a whole.

The presentation discusses these developments and situates education research within the field. It aims at first systematically presenting the field according to the state-of-the-art research, in order to, second, discuss the central issues surrounding the research on its conceptualization, empirical analysis and impact and implications. Such an exercise is viewed as a crucial step towards critical discussions of the future of the field and towards reflecting on possible futures for (the business of) education.

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Educarium, sh 361

Assistentinkatu 5, Turku

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