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Higher education, unbundling, and the end of the university as we know it

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Abstract

Unbundling is the process through which products previously sold together are separated. This process has been driven by digital technology, but also has implications for the employment of university staff. The concept of unbundling presents some challenges for teaching and learning, and the undermining of the traditional university model. The research presented in this article explores the implications of basic unbundling for the university as we know it.

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Tristan McCowan is reader in Education and International Development at the UCL Institute of Education, London. His work focuses on the areas of access to and quality of higher education, alternative and innovative universities, citizenship education and human rights, and covers a broad range of contexts, particularly in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. He is currently conducting multi-country research projects focusing on higher education pedagogy, graduate destinations and the public good in Africa, and is also involved in research on indigenous education in the Brazilian Amazon and Mexico. He is the author of *Rethinking Citizenship Education* (Continuum, 2009) and *Education as a Human Right* (Bloomsbury, 2013), and is editor of *Compare – a Journal of International and Comparative Education*.

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