ABOUT ME

- A sociologist who researches higher education, including doctoral education, inequality, HE policy, leadership/governance/management, organizational aspects of HE, new managerialism

- Held senior posts related to doctoral education at four universities (the Open University, Lancaster, Bristol, Royal Holloway) experienced supervisor/examiner (32 completions, well over 70 theses externally examined)

- Former chair 2015-18 UK Council for Graduate Education

- Working with top practitioners/researchers in researching doctoral education e.g Moscow October 2018; Portuguese Quality Assurance Agency (A3ES), Douro Valley, October 2018; VW Foundation global workshop with academics and early career researchers, Hannover, September 2019.
A NEW ROLE FOR THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

• **Quality** involves looking at the processes we use in doctoral education (supervision, training, researcher support, progress monitoring, vivas, placements etc) and the outcomes (principally, upgrades, successful award of degrees, employment, social and public good contribution)

• Done via annual monitoring of research degree programmes in each school/dept, PRES survey and a new periodic risk-based School level review with external panel who will talk to doctoral researchers & staff & study relevant data. Also termly meetings for doctoral researchers to comment on doctoral school matters

• **Enhancement** is about activities aimed at supporting doctoral researchers & supervisors, from workshops, expert fora and social events to an annual doctoral conference (in June)

• **Inclusion** will be focusing on doctoral researcher engagement for all; BAME recruitment, progression & completion; wellbeing and mental health; support for social/cultural roles of doctoral candidates & graduates
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Tell us what kinds of activities you’d like to see – e.g. social events and workshops combined or separate, topics, researcher-run sessions etc
- Complete the annual PRES survey
- Engage in occasional consultative focus groups and periodic review when asked
- Take part in the annual conference
- Tell us when things are not going well as well as about good practice
- Think about how you can contribute to an inclusive environment in RH doctoral education – keep in touch with your peers
THE IMPORTANCE OF ASKING QUESTIONS

Why don't we just ask someone if the food is free?  
Noooo... that's the last thing you want to do!

Why not?  
Plausible deniability.

That way, if someone asks you can say you didn't know the food wasn't free!

Like when you said you didn't know the Ph.D. would take that long?  
I had no idea!

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