

PROFESSOR MATS ALVESSON

## Logics of Higher Education: Qualification, Customer-Satisfaction or Looking Good?

30 March 2015      8 West, 3.14      14.00-16.00  
University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY

**Professor Mats Alvesson, Professor of Business Administration at the University of Lund, Sweden and at University of Queensland Business School, Australia**

### OVERVIEW

The talk discusses the contemporary nature of higher education, in particular business schools, and the key drivers behind developments. The idea of HE leading to higher (cognitive) qualifications is increasingly questionable. A recent US study (Academically Adrift) suggests that 40 % of all students do not improve intellectually during their education. Instead making students satisfied and looking good in the face of accreditations, rankings and complying with institutionalized myths for what is 'rational' often take upper hand. The talk is partly based on the speaker's recent book *The Triumph of Emptiness* (Oxford University Press)



### BIOGRAPHY

Mats Alvesson is Professor of Business Administration at the University of Lund, Sweden and at University of Queensland Business School, Australia. He has also held visiting positions at the Judge Institute of Management Studies, University of Cambridge; Colorado University, Boulder; Melbourne University; University of Oxford and the University of Paris – Dauphine. His research interests include critical theory, gender, power, management of professional service (knowledge intensive) organisations, leadership, identity, organisational image, organisational culture and symbolism, qualitative methods and philosophy of science. His books include *Interpreting Interviews*; *Metaphors we lead by: Understanding leadership in the real world* (with Andre Spicer); *Oxford handbook of critical management studies* (edited with Todd Bridgman and Hugh Willmott); *Knowledge work and knowledge intensive firms*. More recently he has published *The Triumph of Emptiness: Consumption, Higher Education, and Work Organization*. He has published extensively including in *Organization Studies*, *Organization*, *Journal of Management*, *Human Relations*, *Academy of Management Review* and *Higher Education* and has been appointed to the editorial board of many of these journals.

Please contact [researchoffice@management.bath.ac.uk](mailto:researchoffice@management.bath.ac.uk) for further information