

# Higher Learning for Tomorrow: Challenges Ahead

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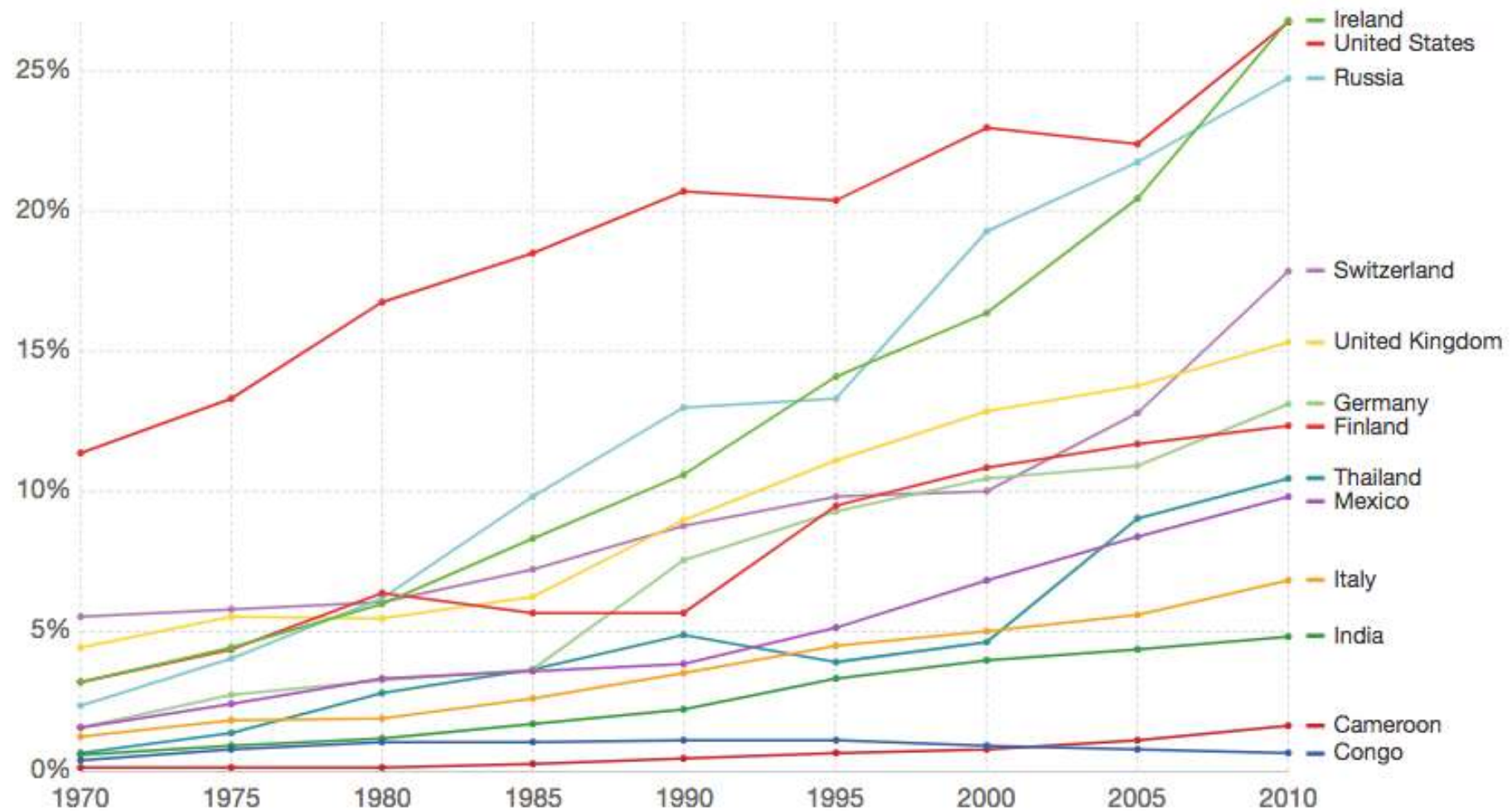
# University at the cross-roads

- Emerged from a tradition of serving the privileged few to become an institution of mass education
- Participation in tertiary education since the 1970s is on the increase world-wide
- Now: competitive achievement orientation – repercussions???

# Share of the population with completed tertiary education

The share refers to the population 15 years and older.

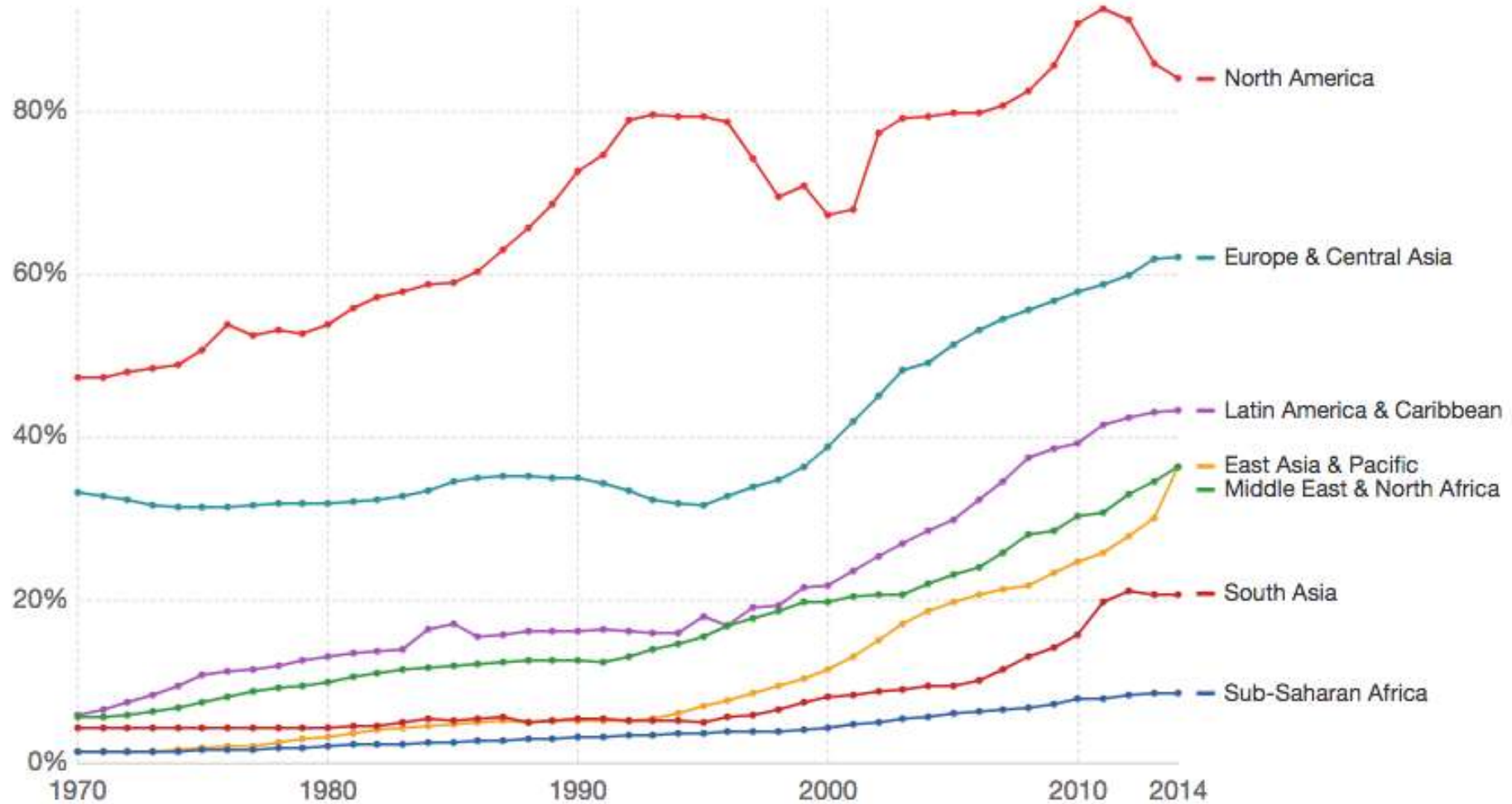
Our World  
in Data



Source: World Bank EdStats; Barro-Lee: Percentage of population age 15+ with tertiary schooling. Completed Tertiary  
OurWorldInData.org/tertiary-education/ • CC BY-SA

# Gross enrollment ratio in tertiary education

Total enrollment in tertiary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the total population of the five-year age group following on from secondary school leaving.



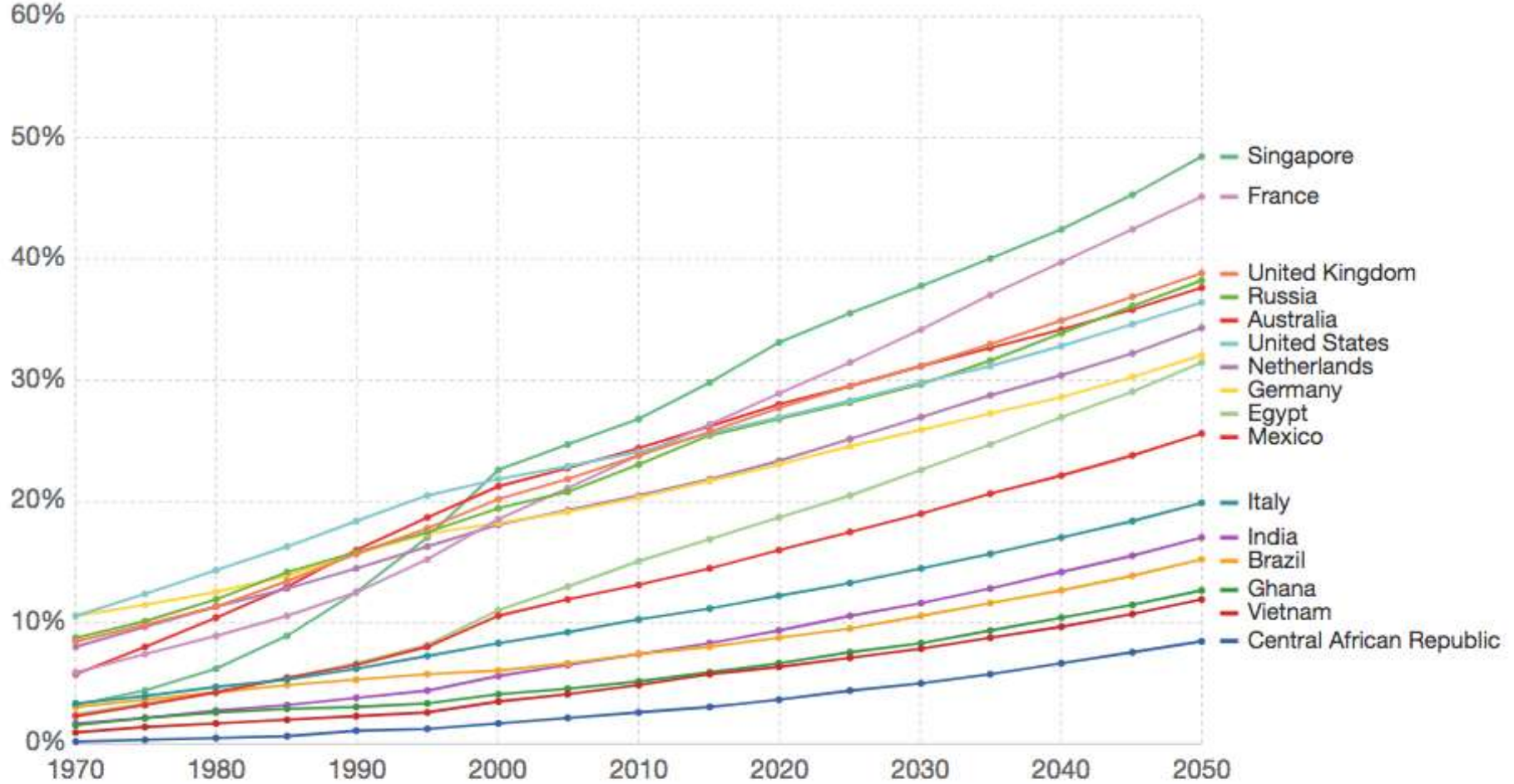
Source: World Bank EdStats: Gross enrolment ratio, tertiary, both sexes (%)

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# Projections of the share of the population aged 15+ educated to degree level by country



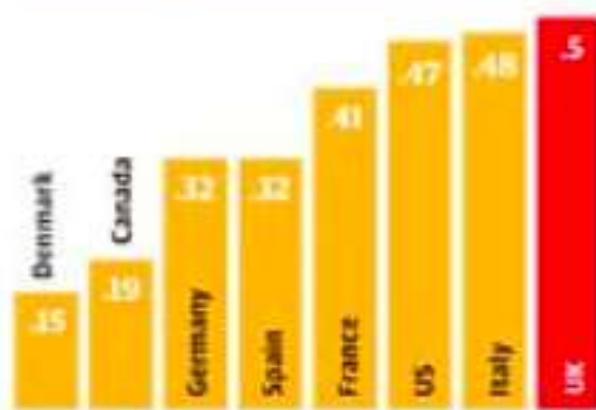
Projections are IIASA Global Education Trends (GET) estimates based on the continuation of current trends.



Source: International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA): World Population and Human Capital in the Twenty-First Century (2015)  
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# Reproduction of inequality

- Low social mobility between generations
- Access to universities still correlates largely with income class
- Women gaining access to higher education but not proportionately to academic positions in universities
- Ethnic minority groups grossly under-represented
- Geographic inequality largely reproduced globally



Left school in 1970s, aged 54 now



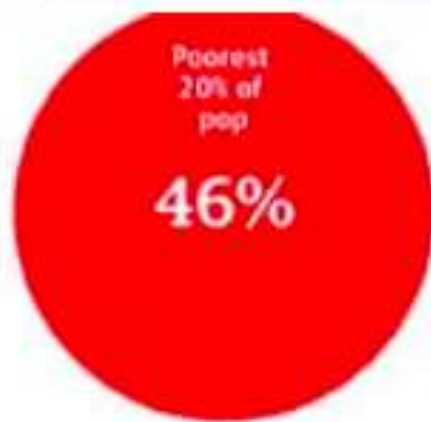
4 richest  
for every  
1 poorest



Left school in 1980s, 42 now



5 richest  
for every  
1 poorest



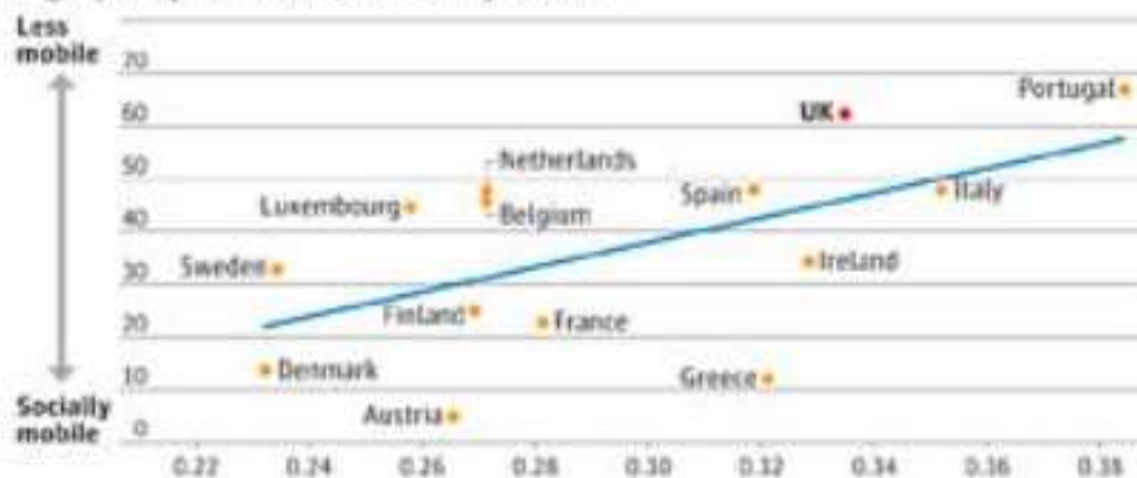
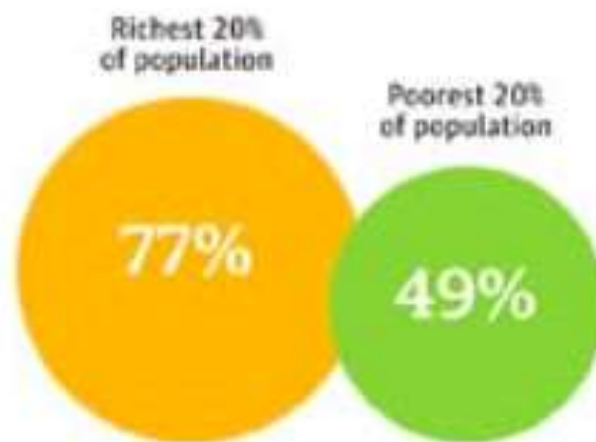
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Higher education: achievement

Likely to apply to university and likely to get in

Countries that are less equal also have less social mobility

There is a link between social mobility and inequality. See the UK - it is both highly unequal AND less socially mobile

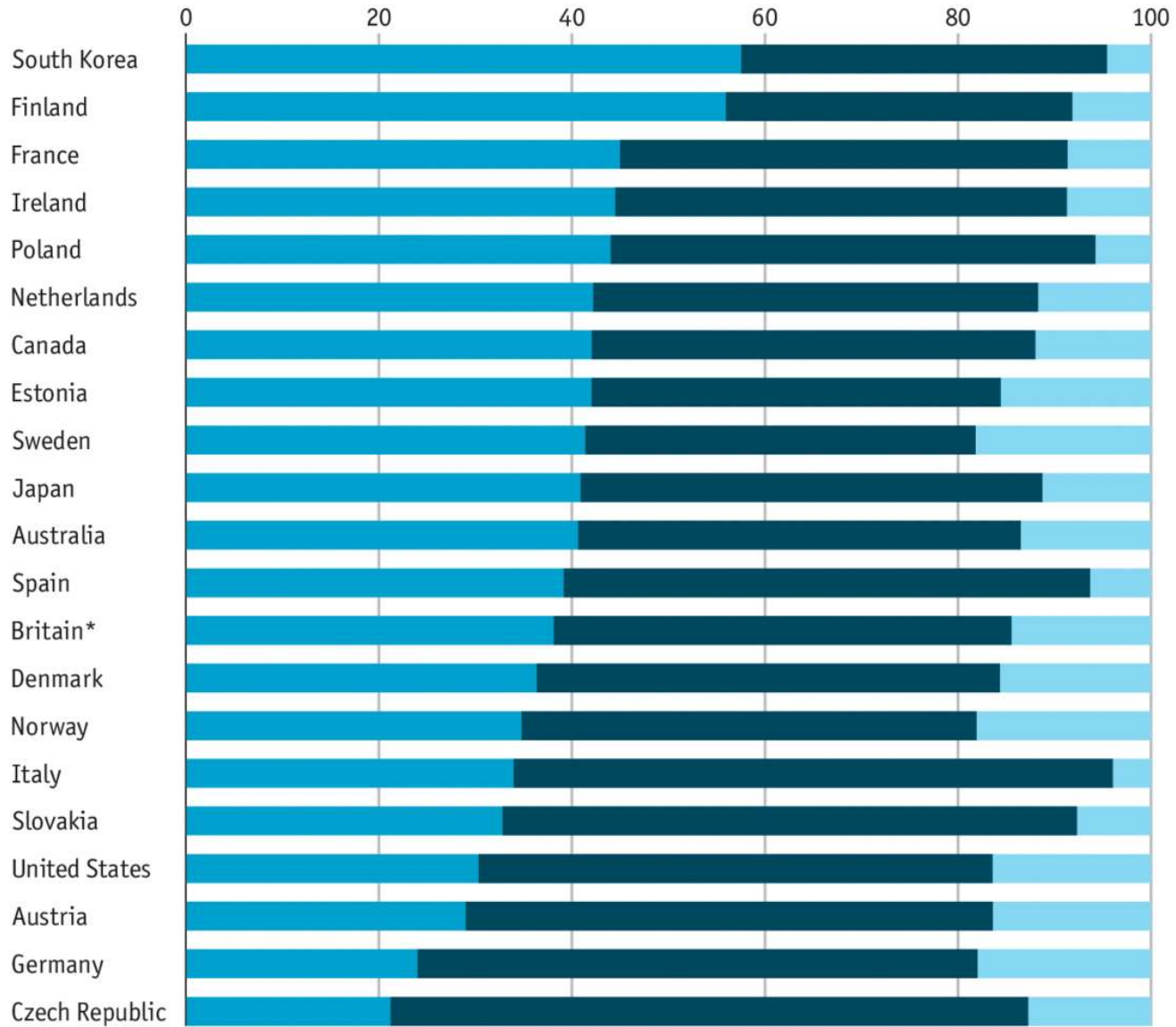


## Educational attainment

Of 25- to 64-year-old non-students compared with their parents, 2012

% who have:

more the same less



Source: OECD

\*England and Northern Ireland



# Dilemmas for future directions

## **Elitism**

- Quality measured in quantity
- Promoting meritocracy
- Shorter degree completion
- Higher specialisation
- National introspection
- Subject-oriented teaching

## **redistribution**

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## **Elitism**

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## **redistribution**

- Making universities more inclusive
- Providing opportunities
- International mobility
- Person-oriented learning
- Complexity of issues requires interdisciplinary approaches
- Broad qualitative criteria (“Third Mission”)