

Notions abordées : « Espaces et Echanges »

Jon Mulholland, UK, researcher and sociology professor

The French in London

Jon Mulholland: One of the most consistent findings in our study was the account of France, amongst our participants, as a place in which career progression, was tied very closely to the qualifications you had, and there was almost a universal agreement that in France there was a highly rigid system, whereby qualifications achieved, particularly through Grandes Ecoles were a prerequisite for successful career pathways and progression. By qualification-ism, I'm referring to the importance or the necessity of highly specific qualifications acquired from particular organisations as a prerequisite for successful careers in the French labour market. This contrasted with their account of the labour market in London and its relationship to education, whereby they argued that London was flexible in comparison to the rigidity of France, and that the flexibility came from a culture and practice whereby talent was valued and recognised above and beyond qualifications.