



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland



Parity of Esteem

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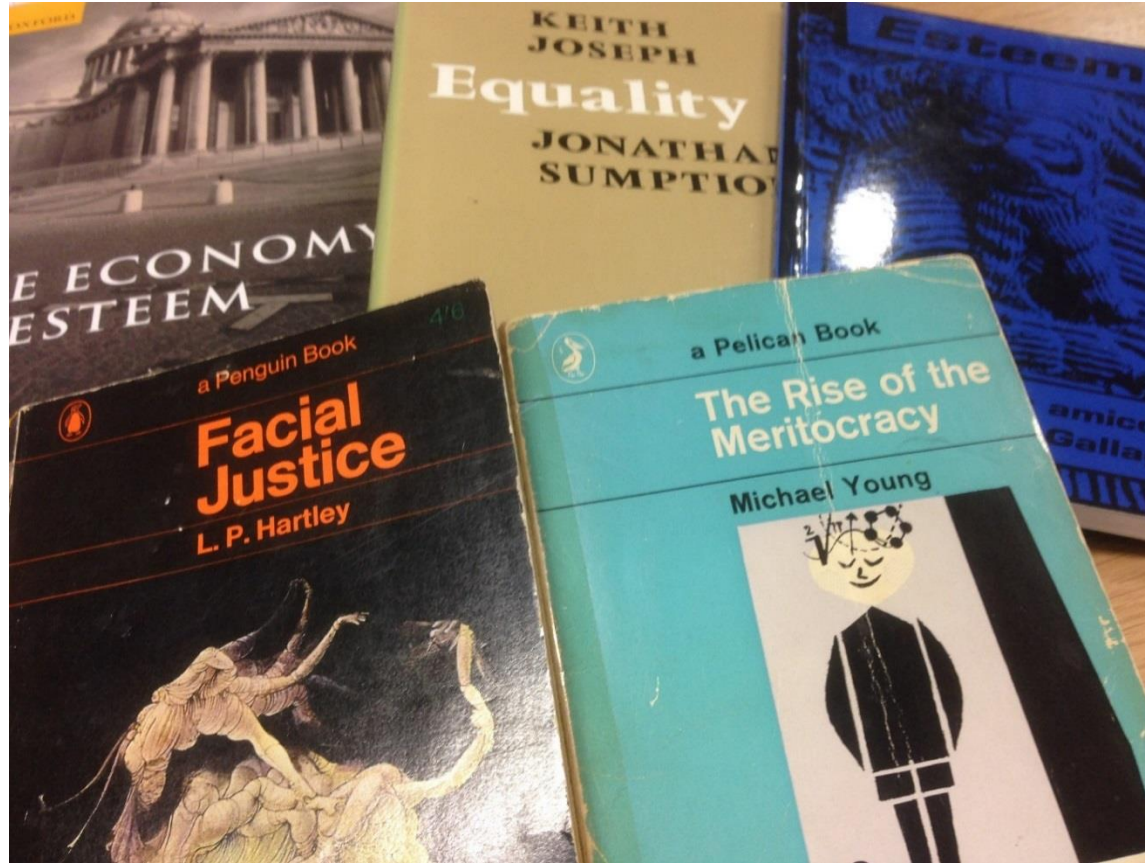
Emeritus Professor of Jurisprudence

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RESEARCH AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

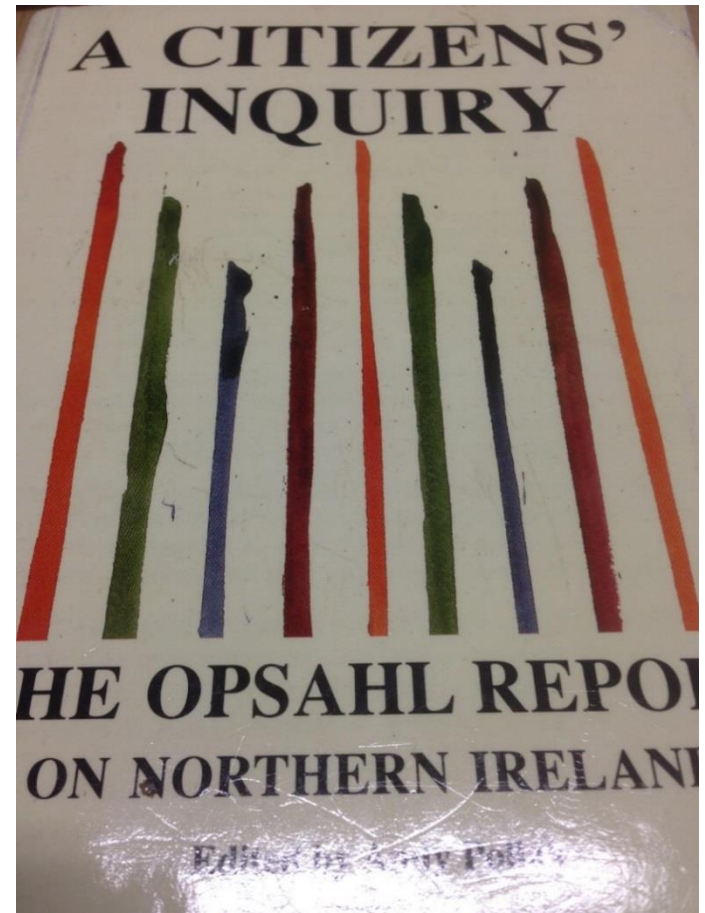
Esteem



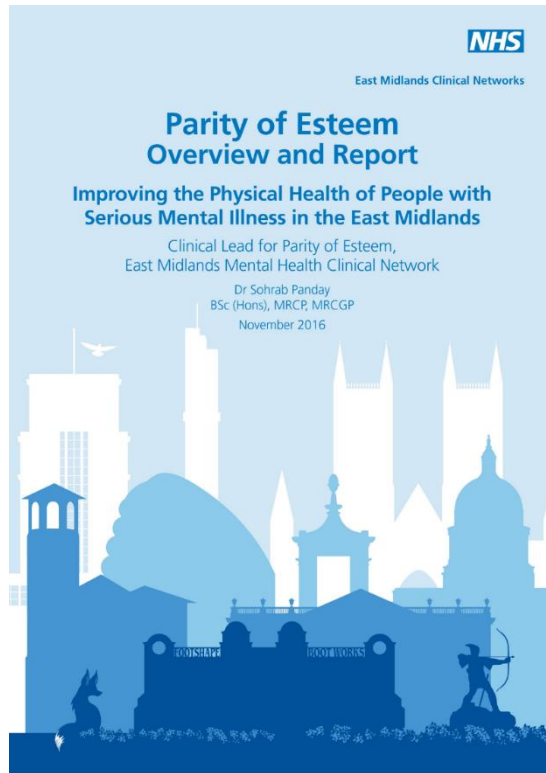
Whatever happened to Parity of Esteem?

During the 1992-1993

Opsahl process of taking submissions from all-comers and listening to many individuals and groups in public hearings, the Opsahl Commissioners discerned some value in the concept of 'parity of esteem'. The then Secretary of State, Sir Patrick Mayhew, picked up on this and for a while in the 1990s, the rhetoric was invoked, most famously in the 1998 Belfast or Good Friday Agreement, if not necessarily brought to life. But then it seemed to fade from view...



Is Parity of Esteem alive and well and living in the East Midlands ...?



... or in South Africa?



Republic of South Africa

South African Government

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Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

s6. Languages

1. The official languages of the Republic are Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa and isiZulu.
2. Recognising the historically diminished use and status of the indigenous languages of our people, the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of these languages.
3.
 - a. Municipalities must take into account the language usage and preferences of their residents.
 - b. The national government and provincial governments may use any particular official languages for the purposes of government, taking into account usage, practicality, expense, regional circumstances and the balance of the needs and preferences of the population as a whole or in the province concerned; but the national government and each provincial government must use at least two official languages.
4. The national government and provincial governments, by legislative and other measures, must regulate and monitor their use of official languages. Without detracting from the provisions of subsection (2), all official languages must enjoy *parity of esteem* and must be treated equitably.



Lessons from Education in how not to establish parity of esteem?

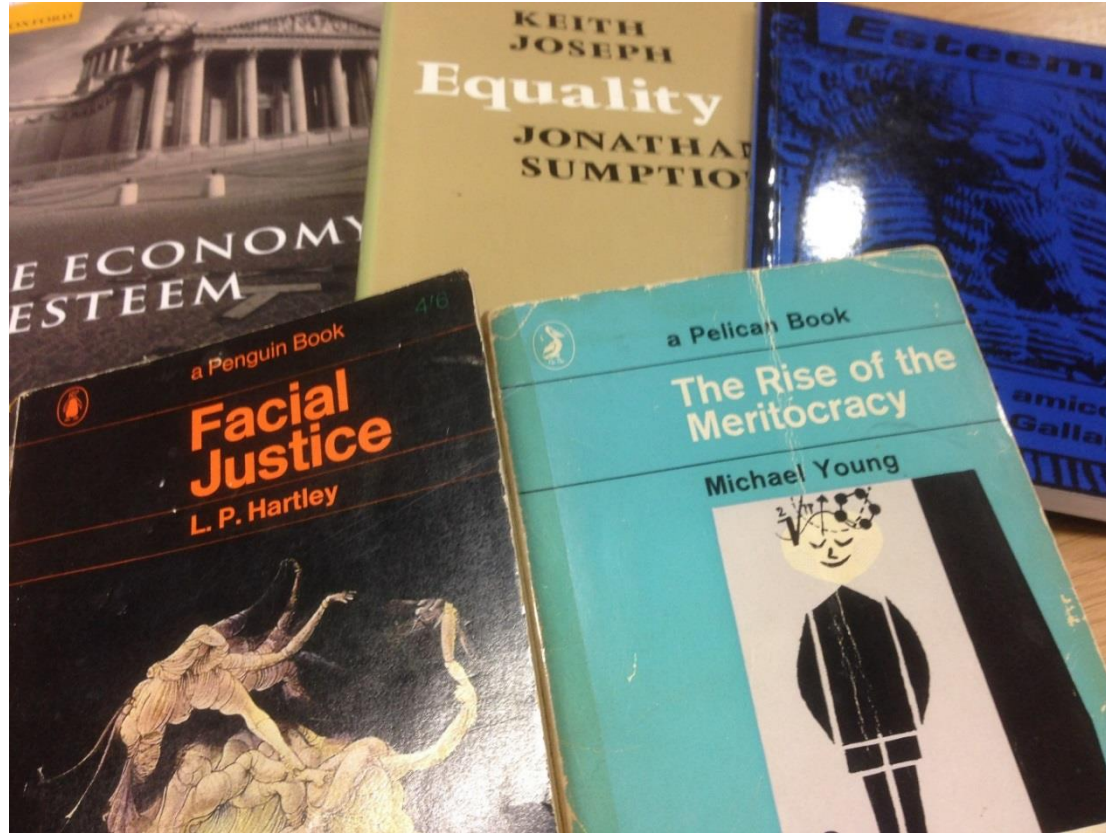
Accordingly we would advocate that there should be three types of education, which we think of as the secondary Grammar, the secondary Technical, the secondary Modern, that each type should have such parity as amenities and conditions can bestow; **parity of esteem** in our view cannot be conferred by administrative decree nor by equality of cost per pupil; it can only be won by the school itself.

<http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/norwood/norwood1943.html>

<http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/spens/spens1938.html>



Esteem: ideas from fiction?





Northern Ireland
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