

# The chilling effects of neoliberalism in higher education on social work doctoral education

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**Driven to Discover**<sup>SM</sup>

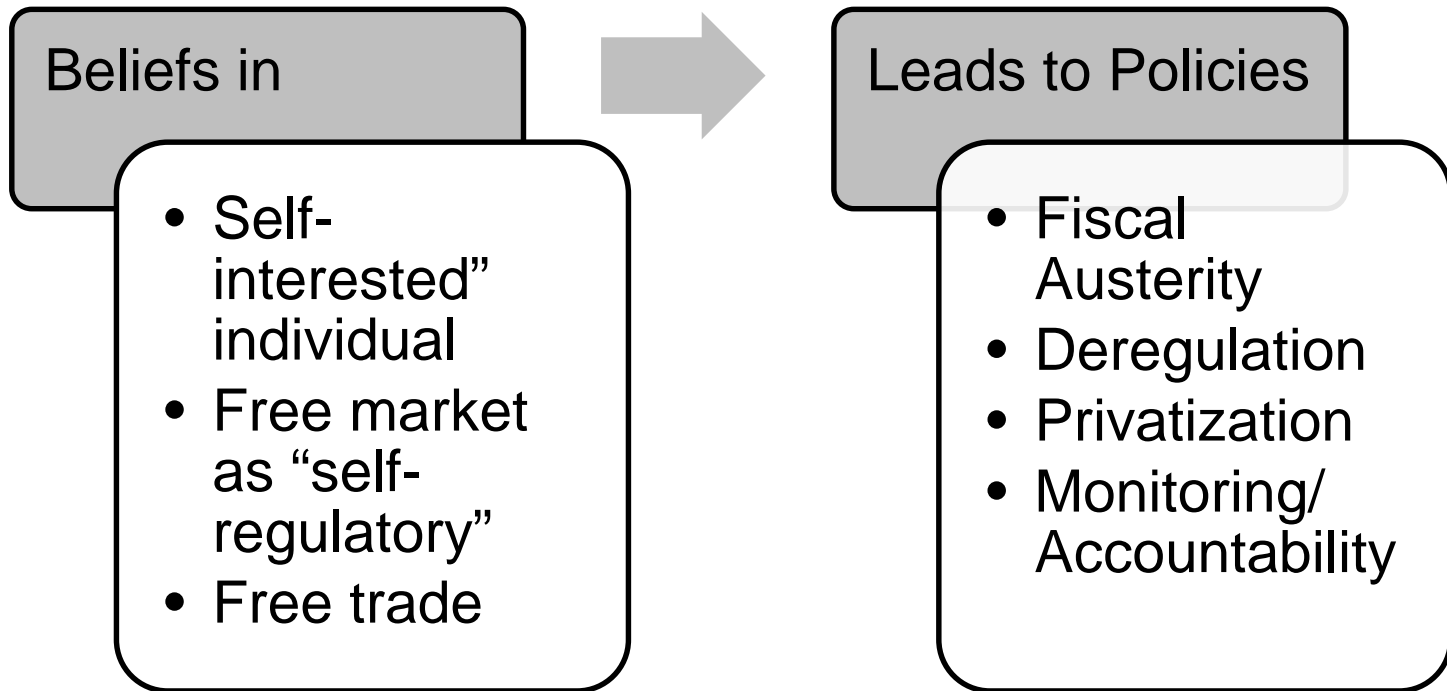
**School of Social Work**

*Leadership for a Just and Caring Society*

# What is neoliberalism?

*Social good is maximized by unregulated market behaviors*

# What is neoliberalism?



# Purpose of Universities

Informed citizens?

Liberal education?

- Morrill Act of 1862 (Land grants)

“teach agriculture, military tactics, and the mechanic arts, as well as classical studies, to members of the working classes so that they could obtain a liberal, practical education.”



# The Day this Changed!

Taxpayers... “shouldn’t be subsidizing intellectual curiosity”

Ronald Reagan

February 28, 1967



# Neoliberalism in higher education?

- Universities adopting “market-like” behaviors
  - “Academic Capitalism”
  - Turning “teaching”, “research” and “service” into revenue generating operations

Higher  
education not  
viewed as a  
public good

Decrease in state  
funding

More focus on  
career training

Universities become  
increasingly resource  
driven

- Raising Tuition/Increasing Student Loans
- Focus on Research Grants
- Research Partnerships with Industry
- Reliance on Contingent Faculty
- Cost-centers run by directors
- Increase focus on STEM, business, professional degrees, less focus on humanities
- Degree (and education) as a “commodity”
- Emphasis on “metrics” – “accountability”
- For-profit universities



Percent of State Funding 2012		Largest Drop in Percent State Funding 1987 – 2012	
University of Michigan	12.2	University of Illinois, Chicago	35.9
University of Washington	13.1	University of Texas, Arlington	33.9
University of Illinois, Champaign	16.4	Florida International University	32.5
University of Illinois, Chicago	16.9	University of South Carolina	30.6
Michigan State University	17.8	Indiana University	29.9
University of Wisconsin, Madison	21.1	University of Alabama	28.3
University of South Carolina	21.6	University of Houston	28.3
UCLA	22.2	University of South Florida	28.2
University of California, Berkeley	22.6	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee	27.7
University of Iowa	23.2	Wayne State University	27.4

From *Chronicle of Higher Education*. <http://www.chronicle.com/interactives/statesupport>

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# What does this lead to?

- Raising Tuition/Increasing Student Loans

	<b>Tuition and Fees in 2016 Dollars</b>		<b>Tuition and Fees and Room and Board in 2016 Dollars</b>	
<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Private Nonprofit Four-Year</b>	<b>Public Four-Year</b>	<b>Private Nonprofit Four-Year</b>	<b>Public Four-Year</b>
1976-77	\$10,680	\$2,600	\$16,760	\$8,160
1981-82	\$10,810	\$2,390	\$16,630	\$7,540
1986-87	\$14,630	\$3,110	\$21,650	\$8,900
1991-92	\$17,340	\$3,720	\$25,070	\$9,630
1996-97	\$19,920	\$4,560	\$28,140	\$10,950
2001-02	\$23,560	\$5,110	\$32,340	\$12,250
2006-07	\$26,380	\$6,860	\$36,060	\$15,180
2011-12	\$29,700	\$8,820	\$40,450	\$18,270
2016-17	\$33,480	\$9,650	\$45,370	\$20,090

College Board: <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-room-and-board-over-time>

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# Canadian Tuition

<b>1993</b>	<b>\$2,320</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>\$6,780</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>\$6,971</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>\$7,950</b>

[https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2015/09/Whats\\_the\\_Difference.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2015/09/Whats_the_Difference.pdf)

- Raising Tuition/Increasing Student Loans
- Focus on Research Grants

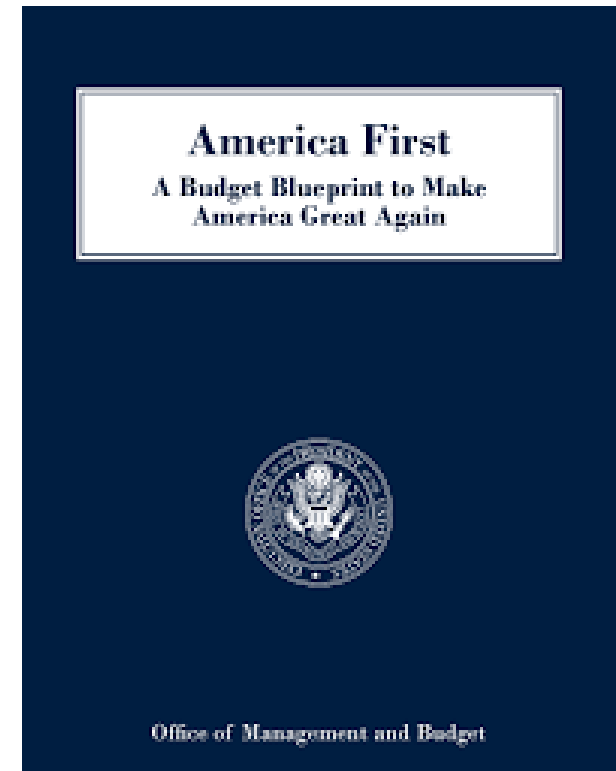
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## \$2.9 Billion in NIH funds to GADE Member Universities

<b>University</b>	<b>NIH Funding in Millions</b>
University of California System (UCLA/Berkeley)	487.7
University of Texas System (UT Austin, UT Arlington)	186.1
University of Michigan	144.6
University of Pennsylvania	143.1
University of Pittsburgh	135.7
Washington University	129.4
University of North Carolina System	111.2
University of Washington	107.9
Columbia University	104.6
State University of Florida (FSU, FAU, FIU, USF)	80.1
New York University	75.3
University of Wisconsin System (Madison, Milwaukee)	72.7
Case Western Reserve University	71.6
Baylor University	66.6
University of Minnesota	63.4
University of Alabama	63.3

- Trump's proposal to cut \$5.8 billion to NIH would be catastrophic for universities (18% cut)
  - Moody's issuing credit warnings!



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# Implications on Faculty

- Focus on increasing numbers of output
  - Publications our “currency”
- Focus on securing funding
- Students viewed as EFTS
- Less incentives by universities for collaboration
  - Colleges/Departments structured as “cost centers”
- Focus on professionalism rather than social responsibility

# Implications for social work doctoral education?

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