

## **Simon Whitemore**

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### **Universities and colleges – co-creators and facilitators of innovation; bridging the management-academia divide**

#### Abstract

A recent pan-European study highlighted the fact that, despite the UK's reputation as a leader in university-business collaboration, there is a significant divide between the academics' and HEI managers' perceptions of this work in this area. Perceptions of success and of relative importance (compared to standard research and teaching activities) differ greatly between these two groups. Is this simply a sign of an independent, vibrant and diverse sector, or is it a structural issue and a cultural trait undermining the UK's performance in innovation? This talk will explore HEFE institutions' role in leading and facilitating innovation, in the political context of the Witty Review recommendations, examine key enablers and barriers such as digital technologies and new business models, and highlight examples of good practice, including projects that Jisc has supported.

#### Biography

Simon Whitemore has a background in public and private sectors, in policy development, innovation and business improvement, working mainly at national and international levels. He is currently Head of Change - Enterprise at Jisc, and has spent the last decade helping higher and further education institutions to develop their capabilities and opportunities in external engagement, especially through the innovative use of digital technologies. Simon was previously Deputy Head of Business and Community Policy at HEFCE, developing third mission work, national innovation funding policy (HEIF) and good practices. Prior to that, he was Senior Consultant with Capgemini, where he led multinational teams developing and deploying online methods and standards at Group HQ in France. He has also taught Italian in FE and has held various IT, change and account management roles.