This research project, *The Unbundled University: Researching emerging models in an unequal landscape*, examines the notion of the unbundling university through:

- the intersection of increasingly disaggregated curricula and services,
- the affordances of digital technologies, online education and MOOCs,
- the growing marketisation of the higher education sector and emergence of Online Program Management companies (OPMs).

**UNBUNDLING** is the process of disaggregating education provision into its constituent parts likely for delivery by multiple stakeholders, often using digital approaches and which can result in rebundling.

### 4. FINDINGS

#### Stakeholders

- Community organisations
- Employers
- Funders / Philanthropists
- Policy makers
- Students
- Higher Education professionals
- Private companies

#### Emerging roles inside the university

- **Teaching**
  - Online programmes managers
  - Marketing consultants
  - Proctoring companies
  - Tutoring companies
- **Research**
  - Learning designers
- **Service**
  - Technical specialists

### Contestations & Tensions

- Universities are balancing competing imperatives – ‘core business’ versus 3rd stream income and revenue generation opportunities.
- Tensions as the HE system becomes more differentiated due to different opportunities for different types of universities.
- Negotiations and some alignment between companies and university decision-makers about opportunities and rationale for partnerships and risk taking.
- Contestations and differences between decision-makers and academics as well as between companies and academics.
- Negotiations about control of teaching and of the academic project.
- Tensions regarding the implications of outsourcing core business.
- Manoeuvring regarding the role of social capital - rather than strategy - in the development of new arrangements.

### 5. CONCLUSIONS

Market forces are steering decisions re teaching and learning provision. Risks of inequalities at all levels: students, academics, institutions, national HE systems and globally.