

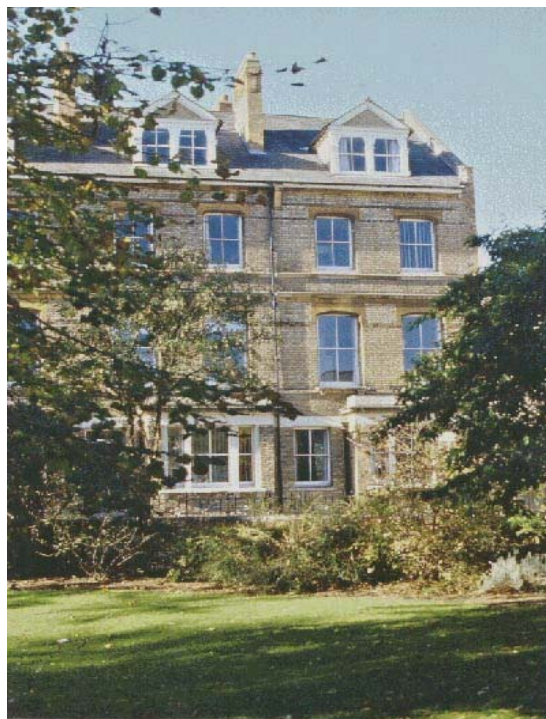
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK
BARNETT HOUSE**

**BARNETT PAPERS IN
SOCIAL RESEARCH**

Manuel Souto-Otero

**Determinants of access to
post-compulsory education
and training:
A new research agenda**

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Abstract: *This paper presents a review and assessment of existing theoretical accounts to explain differentials in access to post-compulsory education and training in advanced economies. The theories presented focus on the influence of a set of economic, sociological and political variables on access to education and they are criticised on two grounds. First, they seldom take into consideration the crucial role of political-institutional factors, and in particular, welfare states' actions through direct investment and regulation in shaping access levels. Second, they do not reflect the current policy emphasis on lifelong-learning. The paper finishes with an outline of a future research agenda to address these gaps, and also calls for a more rigorous analysis of the weight of the different factors affecting access.*

Note (Dec 2005): this paper is now to be published in *Comparative Education*. Once this occurs this page will then be linked to the electronic version of this journal.