

# Student residential accommodation and student engagement

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# Overview

- Some questions about student residential accommodation (SRA) and student engagement (SE)
- Defining SRA and SE
- Emergence and complexity of residence based higher education in England
- Influencers: institutions, policy, practice and data
- Some drivers, debates and tensions for SRA in England across history
- SRA through an SE lens
- Some more questions

# Some questions about SRA and SE

- What factors influence institution provision of student residential accommodation?
- Does student residential accommodation influence student engagement in and with higher education?
- What does student engagement in and with student residential accommodation *mean* to students and staff?

# Definitions

- Student residential accommodation as a type of student residence provided and administered by a higher education institution or institutional partner provider where students reside for a period of time while on a course in a higher education institution (Blimling, 2015: 2).
- Student engagement as the interaction between the time, effort, and other relevant resource invested by both students and their institutions intended to optimise the student experience and enhance the learning outcomes and development of students and the performance, and reputation of the institution (Trowler, 2010: 3).

# England: emergence and complexity of residence based higher education

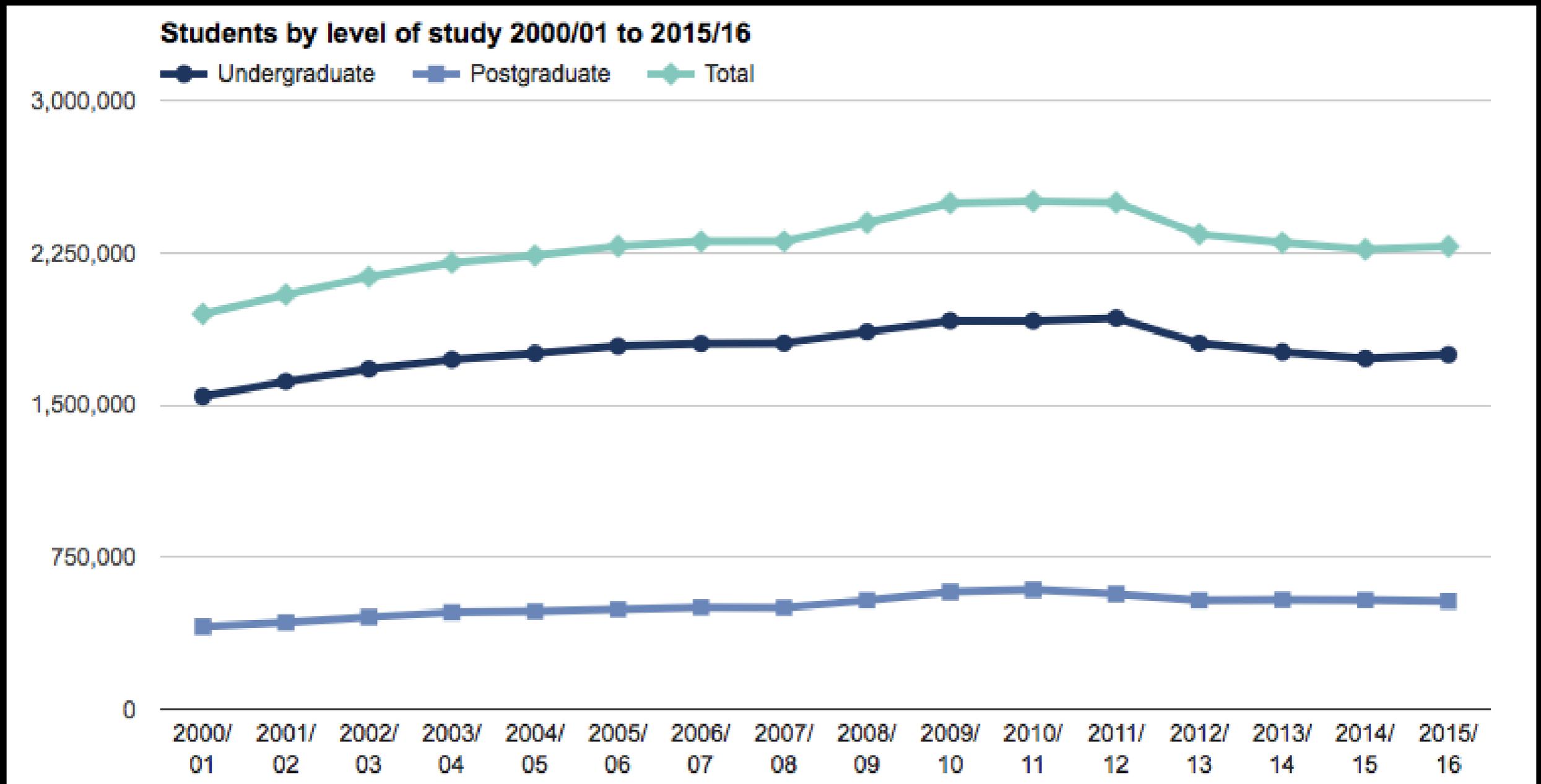
- Institutions:
  - Oxford and Cambridge, University of London, University College and King's College, Civic-Redbricks, Plateglass, The Open U, Private Universities and Post-1992
- A policy 'divide'
  - 'Binary' divide: universities, polytechnics and colleges
- Tracing sharp changes from no HEI provided accommodation, to student residences and more recently student residential accommodation (Silver, 2004; Tight, 2011)

# Influencers

- Institutions
- Policy
- Practice

# Data: recent figures on student numbers by level of study, 2000/01-2015/16

(Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2017)



# Drivers

- Student numbers
- Student characteristics, identities
- Substitution of public for private funding of SRA
- Supply and demand of institution provided SRA
- Supply and demand of private provided SRA
- Local/Regional/National Housing contexts

# Debates

- What is the purpose of HEI provided SRA?
- Who should be able to access HEI provided SRA?
- What factors influence HEI provision of SRA?
- Does SRA influence students' experience/engagement in and with HE? HEI?
- Are students 'customers' and HEI 'providers'?

# Tensions

- Policy (HE/Institutions/SRA)
- Practice and Practitioners
- Positioning institutions, students and host communities
- Access, participation, recruitment and retention
- What about commuting students? Postgraduates?
- SRA as part of a students' total cost of attendance

# Some existing approaches to SRA and SE

- SRA as a student housing pathway (Clapham, 2005)
- SRA as a student service (Blimling, 2015)
- SRA and students' preferences and satisfaction (Thomsen, 2008)
- SRA and student characteristics/identities (Moss & Richter, 2010)
- SRA and local housing contexts (studentification) (Sage, 2010)
- Discourse and student residences/residential accommodation (Silver, 2004)

# SRA and SE: a multidimensional/relational approach

- Person-Environment and an ecological model of human development (Bronfenbrenner, 1994)
  - Physical, social and personal 'space'
- HEI, SRA, students and host communities
  - Relationships: staff and students
  - Leadership: policy and practice
  - Containment and Control
  - Challenge, rupture and sharp changes

# Some more questions

- How has HEI and private provided SRA evolved in the last 50-70 years?
- What is our vision for SRA under current 'market' pressures?
- What are the effects of continued public-private funding substitution on SRA? HEI? HE?
- What lessons can be learned from alternative national contexts? The United States, Germany, France, Australia?
- Is there space for a discussion of the values, beliefs and principles of a higher education? Does that discussion still include student residences?

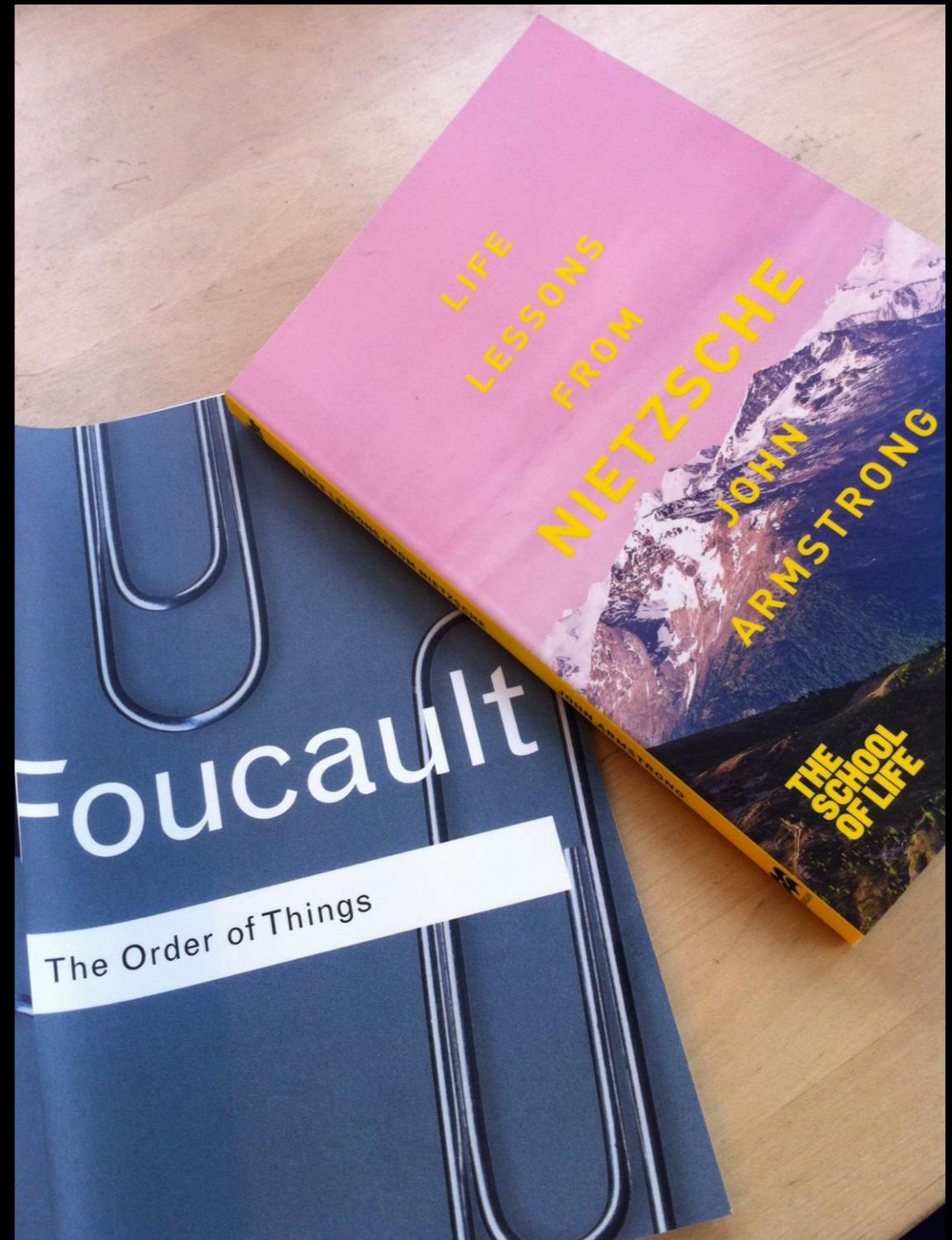
# Discussion

# Thank You & Contact details

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