All things to all people: changing perceptions of 'skill' among Britain's policy makers since the 1950s and their implications

Subtitle:
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Abstract:
The paper looks at how the meaning of 'skill' has broadened inconsiderably since the 1950s through an examination of the relevant policy literature. The key role of both the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) and Further Education Unit (FEU) in re-defining 'skill' in the late 1970s and 1980s is stressed. 'Core' or 'key skills', which have come to dominate contemporary education and training debates, are seen as an extension of this agenda. The new discourse of skill is also likely to have maj...

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