

How deliciously ironic of *THE* to have a brilliant piece on the topic of what universities' lavatories reveal about the academy in the same issue as the results of the 2014 REF. The heavy use of the facilities on the results day, as proposed by Sutherland, might not tell the whole story though. Perhaps the coincidence is symbolic of an unconscious desire for cleanliness from dregs, to be purified (which is precisely the etymology of "defecate" from the Latin "defaecare"). The reader might infer what he/she likes with regards to the connotation that the REF acquires in this context.

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