

## Academic Globalization: Open Discussion part 2

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Participants:

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Discussion:

Robert Holmberg I teach organizational psychology in Sweden.

Kasi Peryasamy I teach information technology at the U. of Wisconsin in La Crosse. I have been arranging training programs for people from China.

Scott Crawford I teach art interpretation in Roanoke, VA. I sometimes use video conferencing.

Yongqing Ma I work on digital libraries in New Zealand.

Xiaoying Teng I teach at the [Beijing Jiaotong University](#). I am currently a visiting scholar at [Montclair State University](#) in NJ. In the past several years, I gave my lecture on physics bilingually. This teaching style helps my students improve their English in a scientific setting during their study of physics. They receive positive feedback. The Chinese government encourages Chinese professors to adopt this content-based bilingual teaching method in their classrooms. I want to learn more about American education by using this opportunity.

Stuart Umpleby I recently gave a lecture to a group of students in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, via videoconference. There is software within Windows that enables this. Many laptop computers now have a camera built into their screens. The technology for distance education is now inexpensive, easy to use and readily available.

SU At my plenary talk this morning I explained the concept of an Intellectual Exposition. Karl Mueller and I have been discussing the idea for several years. The more research-oriented approach to the concept is to

KP Level of knowledge of England.

SU Lately I have been advising on the creation of a PhD program in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Their concept of a PhD is very different from the U.S. or European conception. The U.S. conception is that a PhD dissertation should be an addition to available knowledge. In Kazakhstan a PhD dissertation is a review of what is known and the application of that knowledge to circumstances in Kazakhstan. PhD students in the Department of Economics and Business in Almaty, KZ, are often high government officials rather than people planning to be academics. The head of the Dept. of Management and Business explained to me that the difference between a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and a PhD degree is the number of people one supervises.

Scott Crawford I once met a man with a PhD from a university in Cuba. He was in a GED (high school equivalency) program because his degrees were not recognized in the U.S.

SU Accreditation of degrees is an important part of the effort to improve the quality of degree programs. All universities are working to improve the quality of their programs. My impression is that good progress is being made. There is strong demand for university degrees, so students can get good jobs. And universities compete with each other for the best students and faculty.

RH Regarding KZ, knowledge and knowledge production is relative to political conceptions. There is a literature on Mode 1 (more theoretical) and Mode 2 (more applied) knowledge. The "triple helix" refers to government, business, and universities cooperating to produce and use knowledge. A shared abstraction is needed to describe the innovation process. Also, there are efforts to make public service more knowledge based.

SU When I taught at the University of Vienna in Austria in 1990, I learned that there are very different ways of operating a university. There were bookstores, but no university bookstore with text books. There was no syllabus with weekly reading assignments. There was just one exam at the end of the semester, which students could choose to take or not. Students could attend many classes and take the exams in just a few. Because students did not commit to the class until the end, group projects conducted during the semester were not possible.

KP There is a rigid curriculum in India and China.

SU Teaching methods can be very different in different countries. It takes foreign students time to adjust. Even when they are told several times what is expected, sometimes it seems they do not believe what the instructor has said. I assign my graduate students in management to find a client and do something that improves the client's organization. Then describe what they did using as many concepts from the texts as possible. A group of Japanese and Korean students thought they were supposed to do library research. Only at the end of the semester did they understand the assignment. Even American students have difficulty with the concept that a solution is something that THEY should implement, not something that "someone" should implement.

RH There was more discussion in classes in the 1970s.

KP It takes time for students to adjust to a different educational culture.

YM I recently took some students for a library tour and asked them to write an essay on what they observed. They wrote about what they thought was right and wrong in library. What I wanted them to write about was how research is done in a library.

KP Students often do not do what is asked. Understanding the assignment is the first thing they must learn.

RH People are thinking about how to evaluate universities.

SU Due to cultural differences, accrediting cannot be done the same way in every country. In the U.S. the university being accredited pays a fee to the accrediting organization. This would not work in some countries. If a university pays for accreditation, it is assumed that the result will be positive. So, a third party, usually the government, must pay the accrediting organization, or the government is the accrediting body.

RH A group of foreign advisors said they could not comment on the Swedish universities they were asked to evaluate. They said that the Swedish universities were doing things differently than other universities, but that the results seemed to be good.

SC Communication and exchange of ideas produces advancement. Ten or fifteen years ago there were no cell phones, no internet.

KP Different generations use different media. Students do not use email. They use cell phones and instant messaging. Some people in Japan have two cell phones – one for business calls and one for private calls.

RH Societies will become more alike.

SU Two current trends seem to be the spread of fast internet connections and the use of English.

YM Open access is another trend. Publishers make information available free to poor countries.

SU To finance higher education a growing number of universities are charging tuition and building endowments.

KP Sixty percent of educational institutions in India are now private. There are 238 English colleges in India. Some universities charge a management fee to all who apply,

regardless of whether they are accepted. Currently the cost of education is higher in India than in the US, because there are not enough universities to meet demand.

YM A degree from a Western university is the most desirable.

SU In some countries faculty members work for more than one university, because salaries are low. In foreign universities faculty members often do not have a private office. In Kazakhstan one room with about ten desks houses the secretarial staff, the water cooler and closets for coats. Faculty members are assigned a drawer in a desk for their papers. The room is also used for doctoral seminars. Although hotels have internet connections comparable to the U.S., international internet service at the university is so slow (20 minutes to log on) that it is not used.

In Uzbekistan the students are very poor. A dorm room and cafeteria food is provided. They are given a stipend of \$10 per month. With this money they buy books, notebooks, clothes, beer, snacks, movies and trips home. They do not carry books between classes, because they do not buy books. They buy one notebook for their college career. They take very few notes. They write on the front and back of each page and write between lines with a different colored pen for a different class.

Why are people at foreign universities so interested in signing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)?

KP Such contracts are used in marketing to local students, to show the university has more international contacts than other universities. International contacts can raise a foreign university in local rankings.

SU I recently had to work for over a month to persuade my department head and dean to approve an invitation so that three Russian professors with whom I had been doing research could receive a visa and visit for three days. Administrators seem to be concerned that the reputation of the American university will be diminished by inviting foreign visitors.

KP On my campus the dean's office wants a "piece of the action" from international programs. The dean's office wants more money.

SU It seems that the increasing number of academic exchanges and visits is creating a new activity for universities. We need to develop a business model for this new activity.

RH With research grants a certain amount of money is assigned to "overhead." Perhaps a similar category is needed for international programs.