International Higher Education and Global Science: Europe-China relations in a Changing World Order

Final conference of the international research project on the New Silk Road’s implications for higher education and research cooperation

4–5 November 2021

Paushuize Utrecht and online
The New Silk Road

International research project on the New Silk Road’s implications for higher education and research cooperation between China and Europe
Book Launch Webinar


View the Book Launch Webinar Here

5 NOVEMBER 2020

ONLINE | RECORDING

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Disciplines involved

Anthropology  Political science
Computer sciences  Philosophy [ethics]
Economics  Science & Technology studies
Higher education studies  Sinology
History  Sociology
Law
If global collaboration is to be taken forward, among scholars the time of separated mono-national and mono-cultural views has passed

The potential for a hybrid approach needs to be explored, i.e. what theories and methods can we use to understand these developments; and especially, how can we establish ways of seeing in higher education research that comprehend the world using the sensibilities, the perspectives, of both East and West—whether by blending the differing viewpoints, or by establishing a position external to all

(Marginson & van der Wende, 2017).
Internationalisation Challenged –
Rethinking Global Higher Education |
Utrecht Summer School

16-20 August 2021

A hybrid course that can be attended onsite and online

- Closing the knowledge gap
- Sustaining the global common good, shared values, open science.
- Rethinking Internationalization
- Engaged students.
- Regulatory and normative aspects of governance.
Academic New Silk Road Project

Follow-up activities

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Aims and rationales

**Harvest** further questions and challenges for HE arising from the NSR (project)

**Challenge** young scholars & graduate students to explore these as to

**Inspire** scholarly discussions with new global orientations

**Innovate** and develop a renewed agenda for research and teaching in order to

**Enable** higher education to face the 21st century with an *open mind*
Areas of Inquiry

A. What are the trends in academic “traffic” on the NSR?

Mapping of Flows of students, researchers, programmes, projects, funding (grants), data, innovations, etc.

B. How do HEIs respond to new opportunities?

Case studies on various forms of inter- and transnational higher education; networks, alliances, joint programmes and ventures, branch campuses, etc.

C. Under which conditions are these activities happening?

Who defines these conditions?

Analysis of policy documents & formal agreements between governments, institutions, professional bodies, etc.

D. Based on which values?

Values underpinning the “idea of the university”; mission & model, institutional autonomy, academic freedom, scientific integrity, etc.

E. Impact on the global HE landscape and the role of the US HE sector therein
**Areas of Inquiry**

**A. What are the trends in academic “traffic” on the NSR?**
- Shifting flows: West ↔ East
- ↓OUT  ↑ IN & returnees
- Unbalanced: funding & data
  STEM - SSH

**B. How do HEIs respond to new opportunities?**
- Growth in networks, alliances, joint programmes
  - CN: Unilateral closures
  - EU: Growing concerns

**C. Under which conditions are these activities happening?**
**Who defines these conditions?**
- CN MOE: quality & educational sovereignty
- EU: European values & national security

**D. Based on which values?**
- Which “idea of the university”? STEM-SSH
- Instrument of national political agenda - globally exposed

**E. Impact on the global HE landscape and the role of the US HE sector therein**
Further Areas of Inquiry for the Research Agenda

The globalization paradigm: shifting or diversifying?
• Global higher education
• How open can it be? Open science, open systems.....

Europe – EU regulation
• Academic freedom – institutional autonomy
• EU’s competences conundrum

Internationalisation in the disciplines
• STEM – SSH
• Conceptual and methodological issues
• Contributions to preparing students for a global future
How will the EU’s mandate to facilitate convergence of its dual-use export control with human rights and fundamental freedoms work out in the field of higher education?

• (How) will academic freedom be affected?
• (How) will teaching and (collaborative) research be affected by export control?
• (How) will the “obligation to exercise human rights due diligence” affect universities as “exporters”?

How will the EU’s Common Commercial Policy (CCP) be exercised in areas over which the EU’s internal mandate is much weaker; i.e. for education (supporting competency art 6 TFEU), research (shared competency art 4 TFEU) as compared to an exclusive legal competency for trade (art 3 TFEU)?

Are the values and freedoms that the EU is defending externally understood in a sufficiently coherent way within the EU? And how is it being viewed in this area / respect from outside?

How are the normative and the regulative pillar in EU law being brought together in functioning higher education collaboration both internally and externally?

"Academic freedom is a fundamental right guaranteed by the CFREU, however, not exempting researchers and research organizations from complying with regulations that are established to safeguard the security interests of the EU and of its Member States".
Day 2
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Clearly, this is not a time to be silent
A (short) history of Sino-European collaboration in R&D

- **First R&D Framework Program 1984**
- **EEC-PRC diplomatic ties established 1975**
- **Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation 1985**
- **National Natural Science Foundation China 1986**
- **European knowledge economy globally competitive 2000**
- **H2020 and ERASMUS+ Open to the World 2014/15**
- **ERC-NSFC Agreement 2015**
- **New Silk Road 2013**
- **R&D for global competition 2015**
- **BRI Summit: STIAction Plan, NSFC, Double World-Class Project 2017**
- **The EU regards China as one of its most important strategic partners (2018)**
- **The EU considers China as a “system rival” (2019)**
- **Joint Programming Initiatives 2018**
- **21st EU-China summit 2019**
- **EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment 2020**
- **EU-China sanctions & countersanctions**
  - Enhanced regulations foreign infringement and export control (2021)**