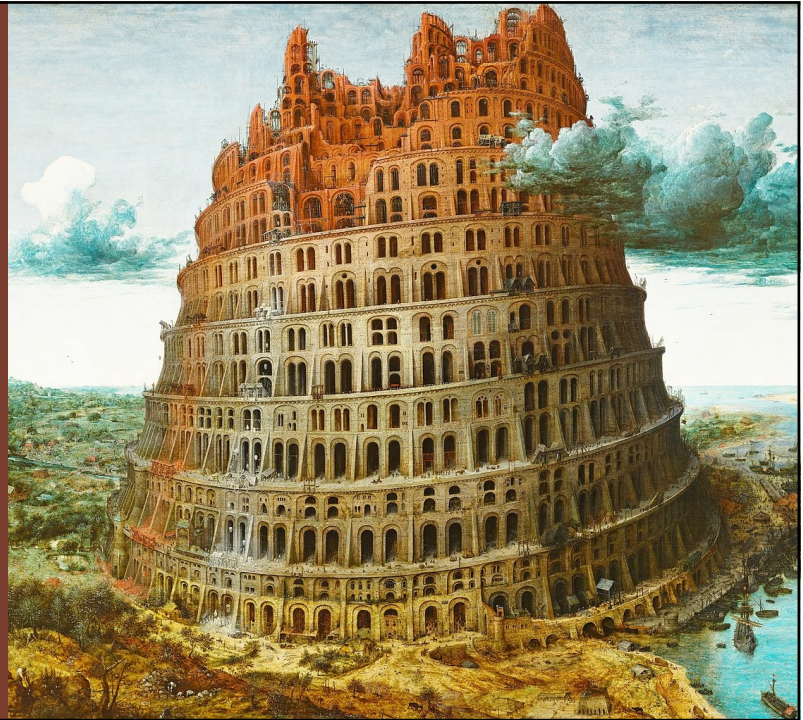


GEOGRAPHY IS OUR FRIEND:

SPACE AND SCALE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Simon Marginson, University of Oxford
CGHE webinar 10 November 2022

Pieter Bruegel the Elder, The Tower of Babel, c. 1563



1

2002 glonacal paper

Growing global and regional activity, nation-states still crucial

Space in higher education created by human agents

Space as material, imagined, practised

Multiple scales in higher education

Conclusions

Zhejiang University, China



2

2002 glonacal paper

Growing global and regional activity, nation-states still crucial

Space in higher education created by human agents

Space as material, imagined, practised

Multiple scales in higher education

Conclusions



Doreen Massey (1944-2016), Professor of Geography at the Open University UK, author of *For Space* (2005)

Zhejiang University, China

3

THE GLONACAL PAPER



Marginson, S. & Rhoades, G. (2002). Beyond national states, markets, and systems of higher education: A glonacal agency heuristic. *Higher Education*, 43 (3), 281-309.

<https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1014699605875>

4

HIGHER EDUCATION IS A MULTI-SCALAR SECTOR

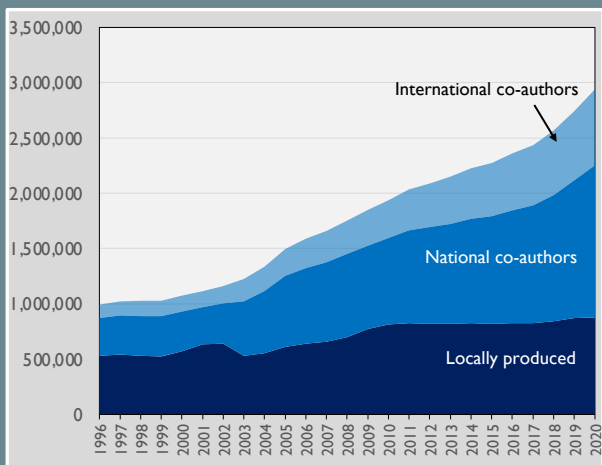
- Higher education is not always or inevitably 'national' or 'global'. It is always both of these, and more
- Individual and institutional agents have open possibilities and causation can flow from any of the intersecting scales of activity – global, regional, national and local



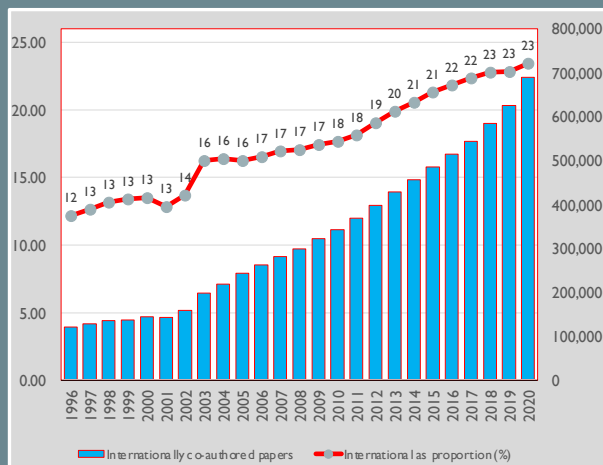
5

EXPANDING GLOBAL SCALE IN SCIENCE, 1996-2020 –

US NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD DATA FROM SCOPUS



NUMBER AND PROPORTION OF INTERNATIONALLY CO-AUTHORED PAPERS, WORLD: 1996-2020



6

REVIEW BY LEE AND STENSAKER (2021)

The authors identified three main themes in the literature on global and international aspects of higher education

1. The role of nation-states in higher education is declining amid the growing impact of global relations;
2. The role of the nation-state in higher education remains very important;
3. Higher education institutions tend to adapt to global norms



7

LIMITATIONS OF METHODOLOGICAL NATIONALISM

- Methodological nationalism: 'the belief that the nation/state/society is the natural social and political form of the modern world' (Wimmer & Schiller 2003). It rests on the 'internalist' fallacy that the trajectory of nations is entirely determined by their own efforts (Conrad 2016)
- 'Methodological nationalism operates both about and for the nation-state, to the point where the only reality we are able to comprehensively describe statistically is a national, or at best an international one' (Dale 2005)
- This 'precludes a planetary consciousness, as we are stuck in global discourses underpinned by nation-state categories and identities' (Shahjahan & Grimm 2022)



8

SPACE = SOCIAL SPACES WITH MATERIAL COORDINATES
SPACES ARE CONSTELLATIONS OF RELATIONS THAT PEOPLE MAKE FOR THEMSELVES

THIS



NOT




9

'IF TIME UNFOLDS AS CHANGE, THEN SPACE UNFOLDS AS INTERACTION' - MASSEY

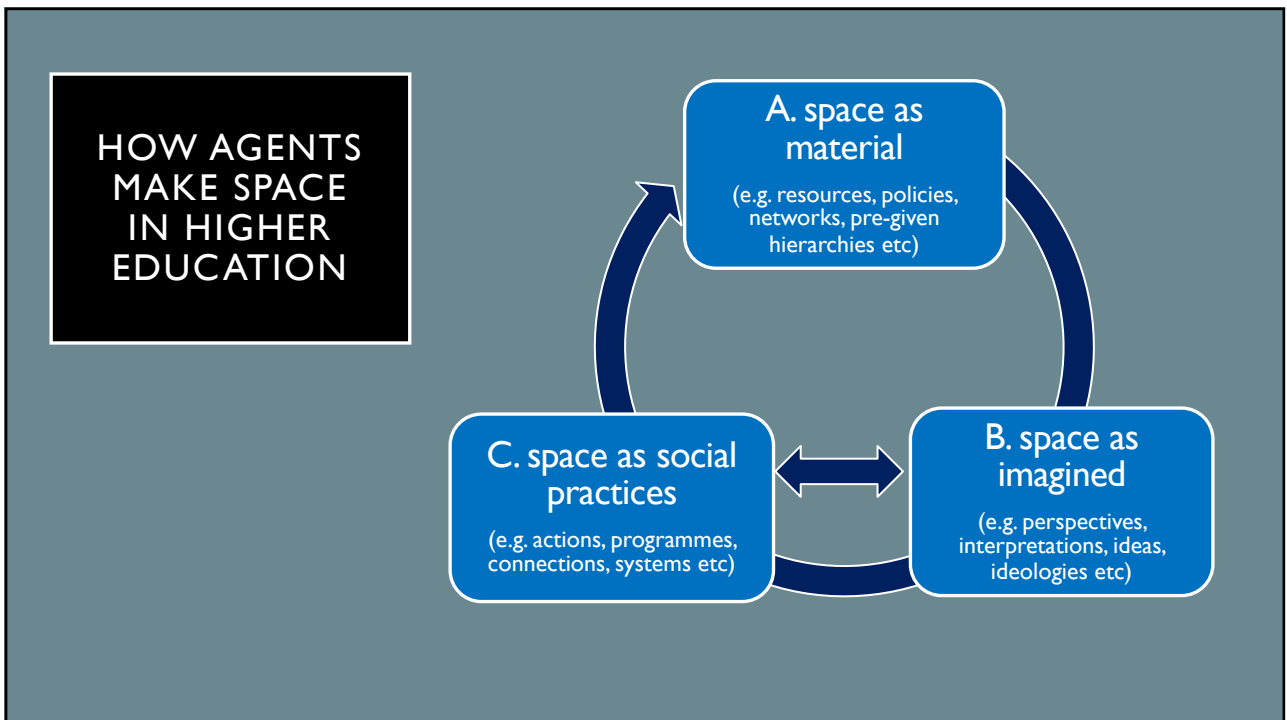
10

SPACE IS AGENTIC AND MULTIPLE

SPACE IS THE SPHERE 'OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF PLURALITY, OF THE CO-EXISTENCE OF DIFFERENCE' (MASSEY)

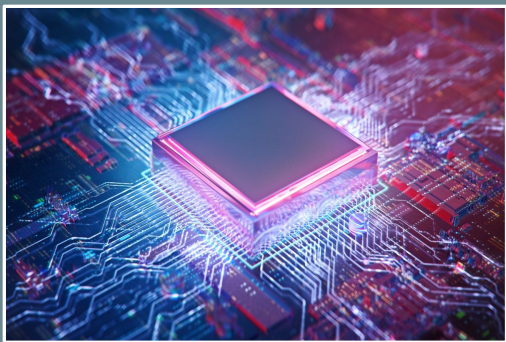


11



12

ACTS OF SPACE MAKING, ACTS OF POWER



Shaping science as an arms race in technology



Creating a high participation e-learning space

13

RANKING AS SPACE MAKING: GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION AS ONE WORLDWIDE COMPETITION AND HIERARCHY

university	country	top 5% papers	all papers	% of papers in top 5%
Harvard U	USA	4276	35,050	12.2%
Stanford U	USA	2140	17,187	12.5%
U Toronto	CANADA	1773	24,260	7.3%
Tsinghua U	CHINA	1726	22,311	7.7%
U Oxford	UK	1722	16,499	10.4%
Zhejiang U	CHINA	1640	29,091	5.6%
U Michigan	USA	1508	19,609	7.7%
MIT	USA	1501	10,503	14.3%
U College London	UK	1446	10,507	9.3%
U Cambridge	UK	1425	14,268	10.0%
Shanghai Jiao Tong U	CHINA	1405	28,703	4.9%
Johns Hopkins U	USA	1404	17,708	7.9%
Huazhong U S&T	CHINA	1311	21,654	6.1%
U Pennsylvania	USA	1290	14,100	9.1%
U Washington, Seattle	USA	1267	14,847	8.5%
Columbia U	USA	1249	12,891	9.7%



Global super-league: Papers in the top 5% of their field by citation rate, 2017-2020 papers, Leiden ranking 2022 using Web of Science data

14

EVENTUALLY
EVERY SPACE
'ESCAPES IN PART
FROM THOSE WHO
MAKE USE OF IT' -
LEFEVRE



15

MULTIPLE SCALES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

the world as a whole (contains activity in all the scales)



agency and activity in any one scale can intersect with any of the other scales

16

IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE
ALL THE SCALES ARE HIGHLY ACTIVE

17

THE PAN-NATIONAL
REGION IN HIGHER
EDUCATION

18

**NATION-STATES
CONTINUE TO BE
CRUCIAL IN
SHAPING HIGHER
EDUCATION**

Higher Education and Nation-building in Eritrea

Admin · 6 years ago · Education in Eritrea, Eritrea, Opinion, Simon Weldemichael



Photo: Computer Science Graduates from the Eritrean Institute of Technology.

19

**THE LOCAL SCALE
OF HIGHER
EDUCATION –
SECURE HAVEN IN A
MOVING WORLD?**



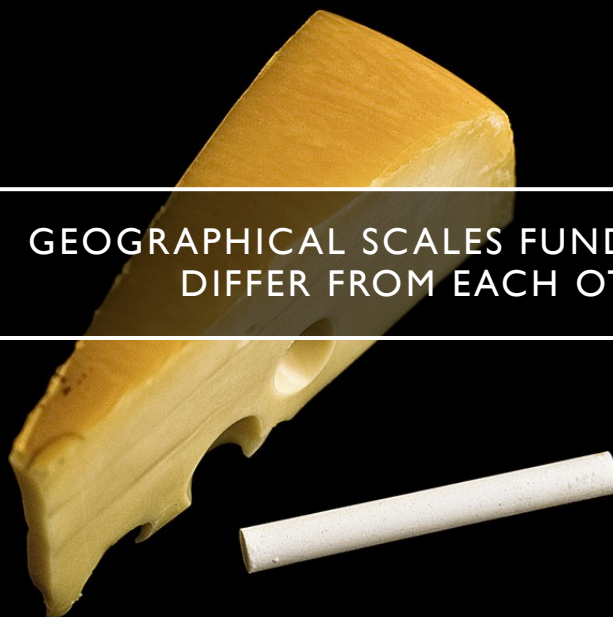
20

THE LOCAL SCALE
OF HIGHER
EDUCATION –
SECURE HAVEN IN A
MOVING WORLD?



21

GEOGRAPHICAL SCALES FUNDAMENTALLY
DIFFER FROM EACH OTHER



22

SINCE THE SCHOLARLY MONASTERIES IN INDIA AND THE MEDIEVAL UNIVERSITIES IN EUROPE, HIGHER EDUCATION HAS HAD TWO KINDS OF CROSS-BORDER CONNECTION: GLOBAL AND INTER-NATIONAL

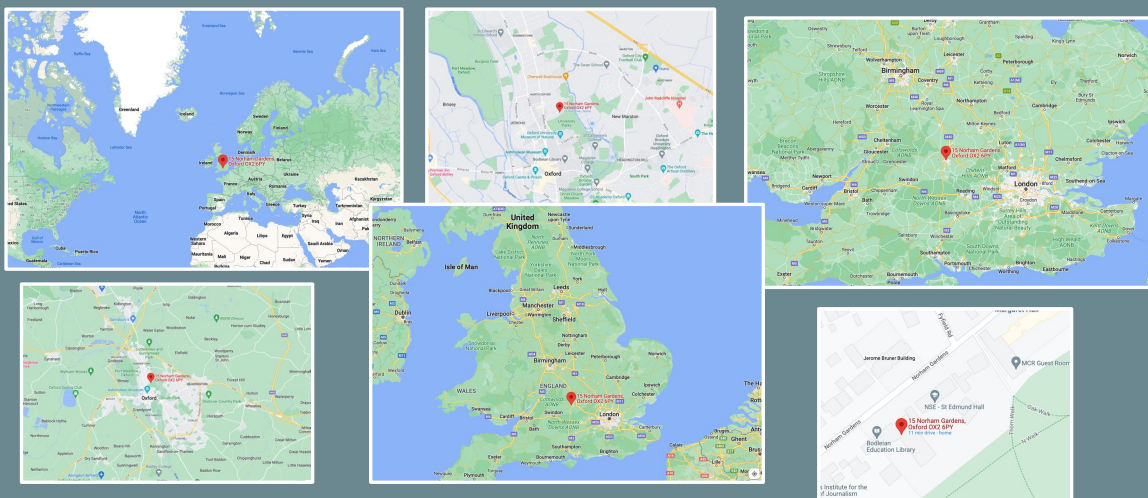
- **Global relations** – flows of knowledge and ideas, scholar to scholar links, university to university agreements, the global science system. For example, almost 30 per cent of articles are now written by scientists from more than one country;
- **National/international relations** – conducted through the territorial (now nation-state) framework, for example student mobility which is mediated by government visa policies, and the negotiations between national accreditation agencies.



Nalanda, Northern India, 5th century BCE – c. 1200 CE

23

MIXING AND MATCHING GEOGRAPHICAL SCALES



24



'THERE ARE NO RULES OF SPACE AND PLACE' - MASSEY

25

THE EXPANDED VERSION OF THE PAPER IS AT:

Marginson, S. (2022). Space and scale in higher education: The glonacal heuristic revisited. *Higher Education*, to be published online at:

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00955-0>

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