

The Place of the Region

Higher education governance
in Germany, Norway and the UK

Jürgen Enders
(University of Bath)

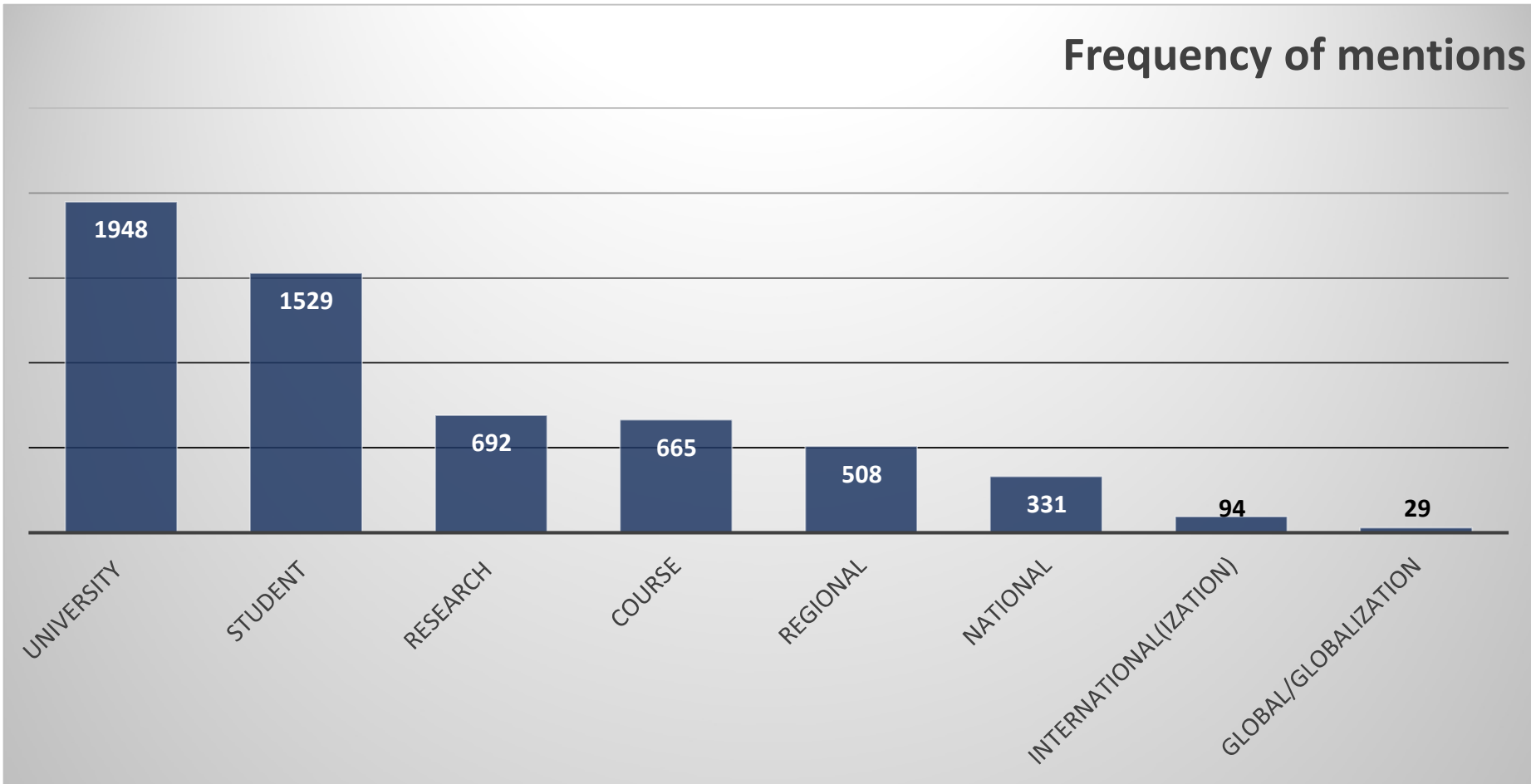
Aniko Horvath
(IoE/University College London)

Introduction

- Role of the region in HE governance, interplay with national / central policies
- Implications for HE landscape
- Inspired by CGHE project on the governance of HE in the UK and Europe
- Based on 135 interviews with policymakers, university leaders, academics, student reps in Germany, Norway and the UK

Putting the 'sub-national/regional' in context

Frequency of mentions



Program used: WordSmith

Germany: Coopetition in a Federal HE system

- Shared responsibility for HE between the states and central government
- Classical political diagnosis: Decision-making trap
- Way out: coopetition in temporary programmatic funding, e.g. Excellence Initiative
- Cooperation in programme design;
regional / organisational competition for programme funding
- Our interview data shows that regional comparison has become both a matter of pride and shame

Norway: Mergers, quality reforms, 'place-making'

- Role of history and human geography: a binary system
- Relations with the Ministry of Education and Research: 'gentle steering', consensus-seeking and dialogue
- Changes to regulatory frameworks: New universities and the process of 'place-making'
- Intra-institutional diversity and complexity – the influence of regions on institutions
- The fragility of a political consensus: the new regions-debate

United Kingdom: Devolution and HE governance

- The political 'experiment': devolution to home countries, including in HE policy
- The distinctiveness of the new HE systems
- Outcomes of devolution for England
- Power imbalances and the fragility of a (seemingly working) political consensus

Conclusion

- The role of the sub-national in the struggle for political ownership
- Affirming and re-constructing the 'region' in HE
- Potential for reshaping the HE landscape
- Fragile political architectures and power constellations