



GLOBAL, NORDIC AND NATIONAL SPACE AND TIME MAKING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

SIMON MARGINSON, OXFORD
TURKU 9 FEBRUARY 2023

Higher education is multi-scalar
but this is not well understood

Space in higher education
Is created by human agents

Space as material, imagined, practised

Multiple scales in higher education

Concluding thoughts



HIGHER EDUCATION IS A MULTI-SCALAR SECTOR

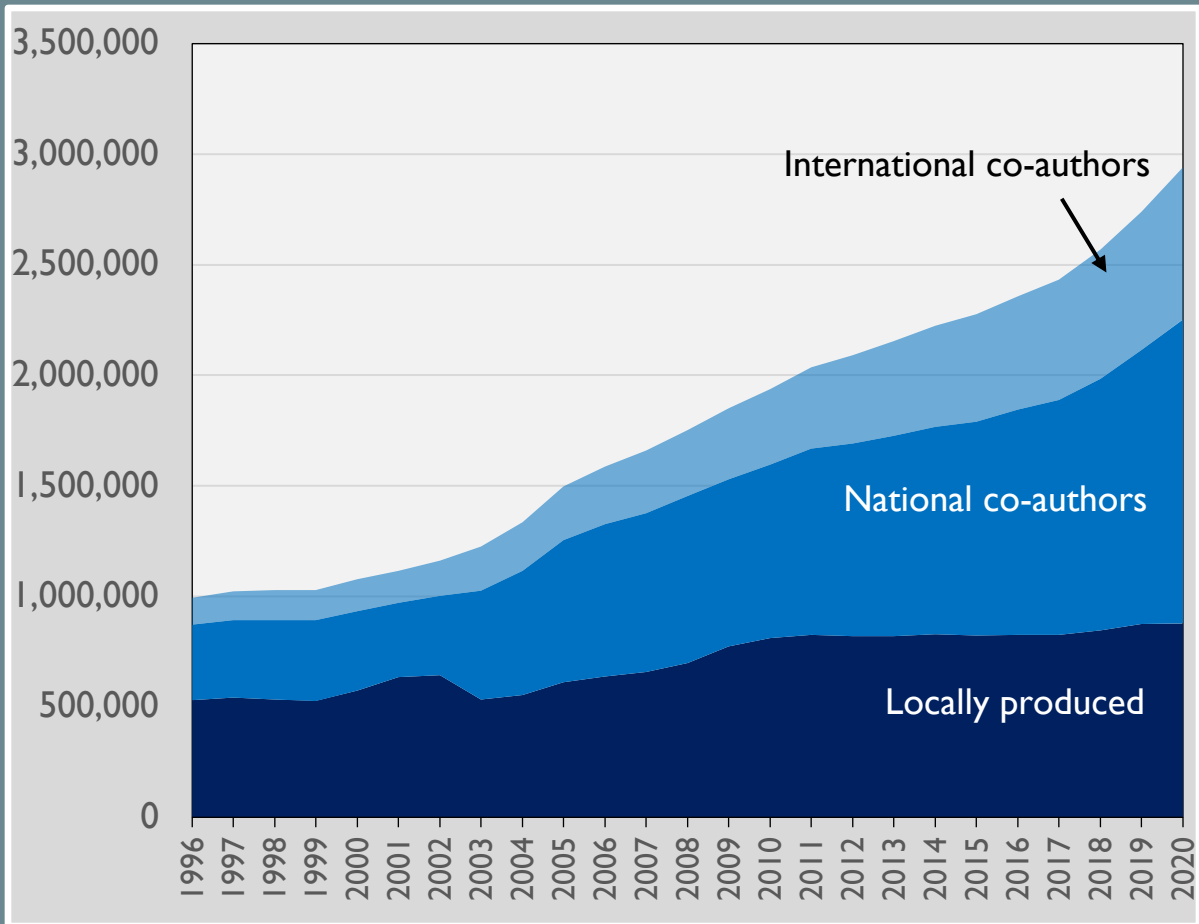
Marginson, S. & Rhoades, G. (2002). Beyond national states, markets, and systems of higher education: A glonacal agency heuristic. *Higher Education*, 43 (3), 281-309.
<https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1014699605875>

- Global flows becoming more important
- 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

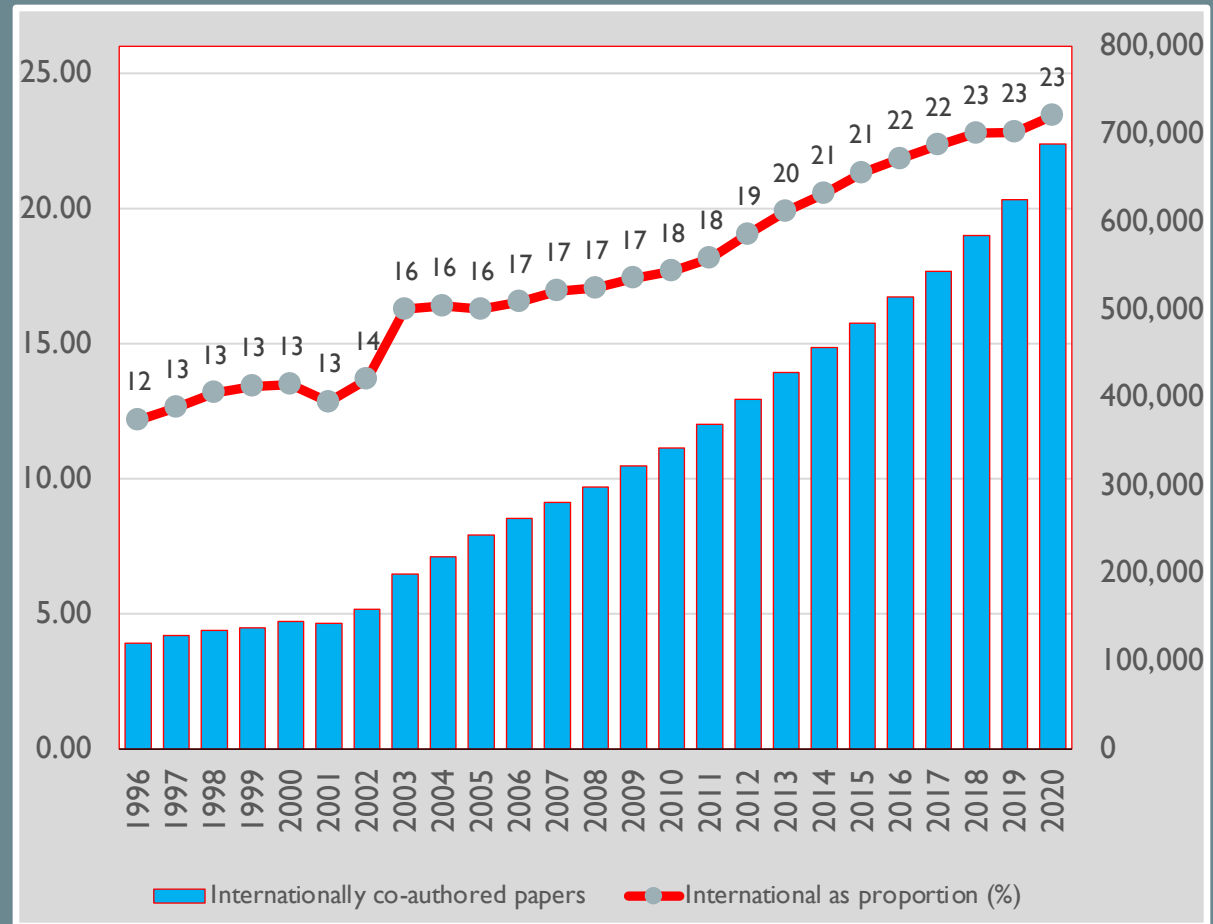


EXPANDING GLOBAL SCALE IN SCIENCE, 1996-2020 –

US NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD DATA FROM SCOPUS



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



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)



REVIEW BY LEE AND STENSAKER (2021)

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

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



The constructed character of social-spatial relations still not well understood. Nation-state 'universal', regional an outgrowth of the nation, the global as 'external' to higher education

SPACE = SOCIAL SPACES WITH MATERIAL COORDINATES
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY (LEFEVRE 1991, MASSEY 2005)
SPACES ARE CONSTELLATIONS OF RELATIONS THAT PEOPLE MAKE FOR THEMSELVES

THIS



NOT

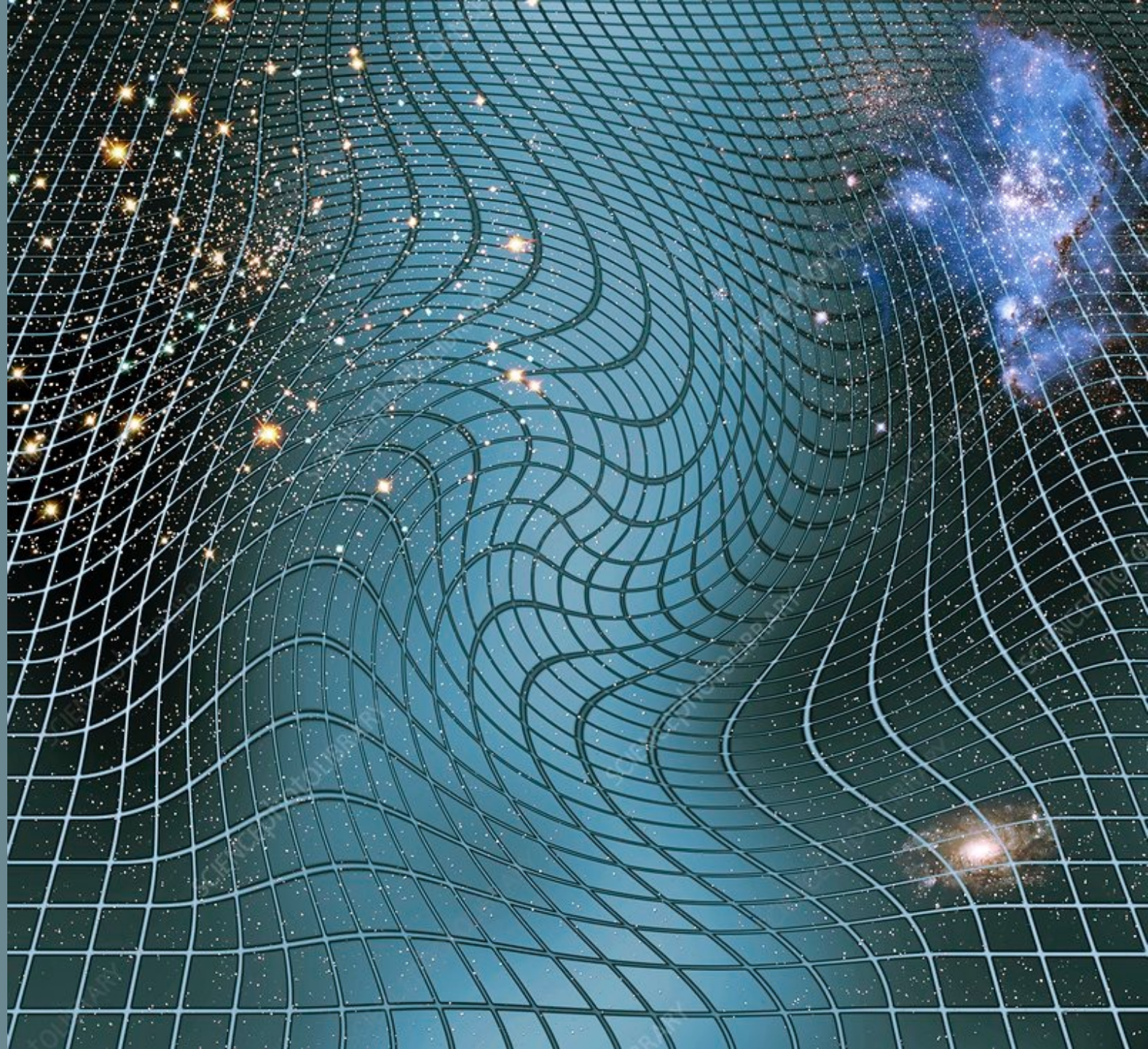




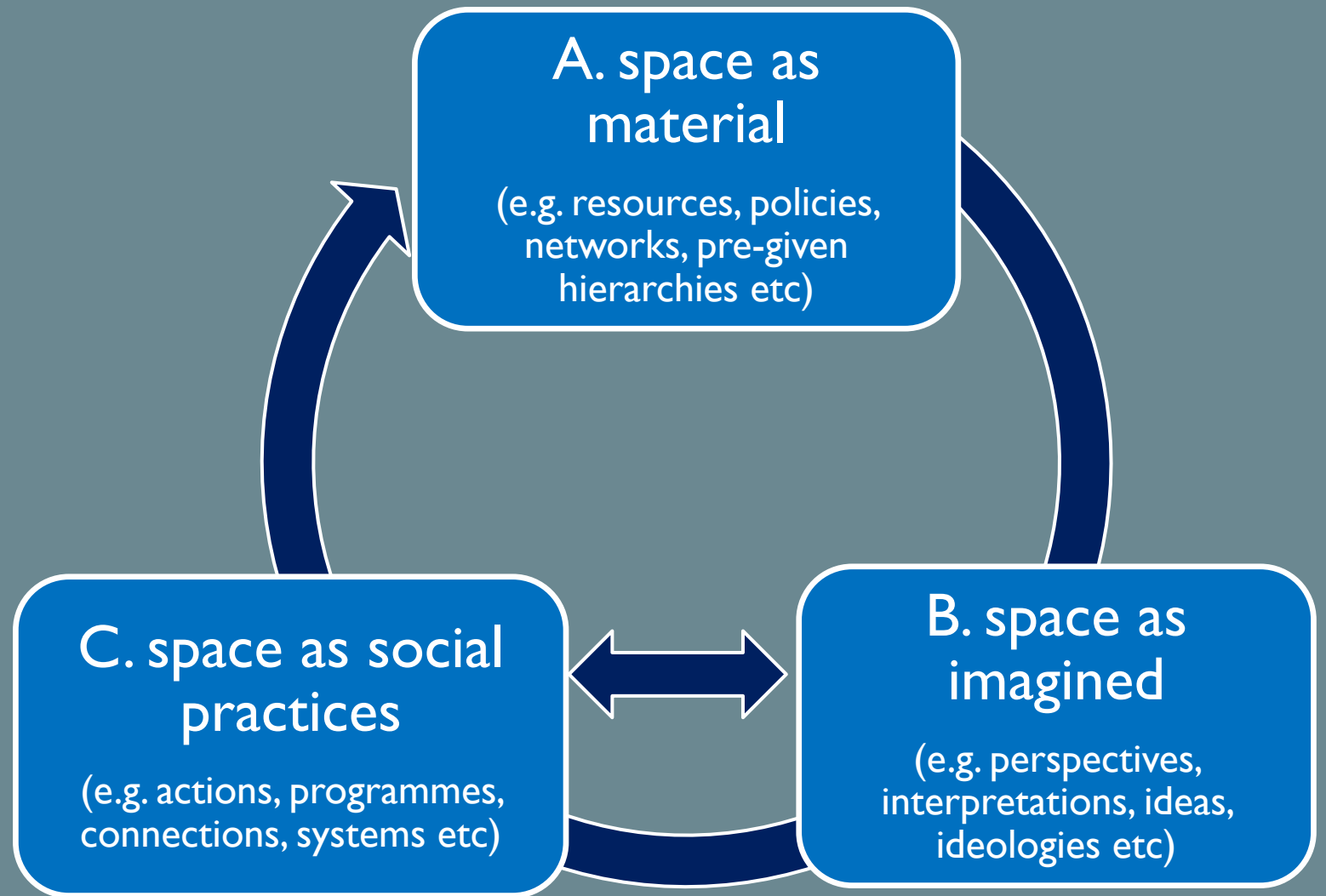
**‘IF TIME UNFOLDS AS CHANGE, THEN SPACE UNFOLDS
AS INTERACTION’ – DOREEN MASSEY (2005)**

SPACE IS AGENTIC AND MULTIPLE

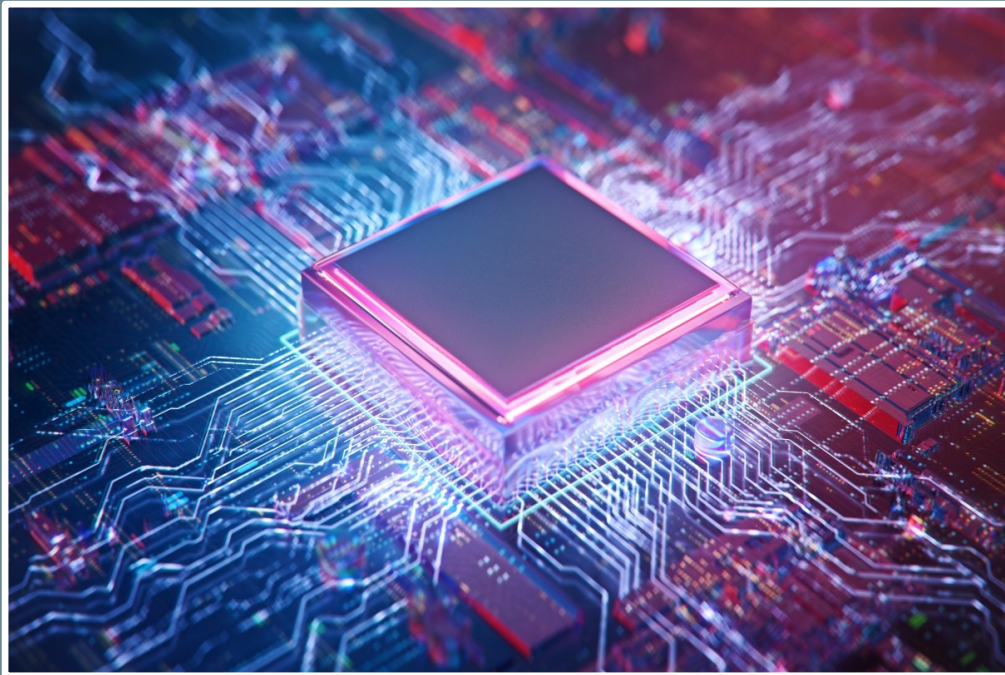
SPACE IS THE SPHERE
'OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THE
EXISTENCE OF PLURALITY, OF
THE CO-EXISTENCE OF
DIFFERENCE' (MASSEY)



HOW AGENTS MAKE SPACE IN HIGHER EDUCATION



ACTS OF SPACE MAKING, ACTS OF POWER



Shaping science as an arms race in technology



Creating a high participation e-learning space

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

WHAT IS
MAKING THE
NORDIC
SCALE IN
HIGHER
EDUCATION?



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

So it is with Euro-American
led global science – it has
become much more plural
and that is irreversible

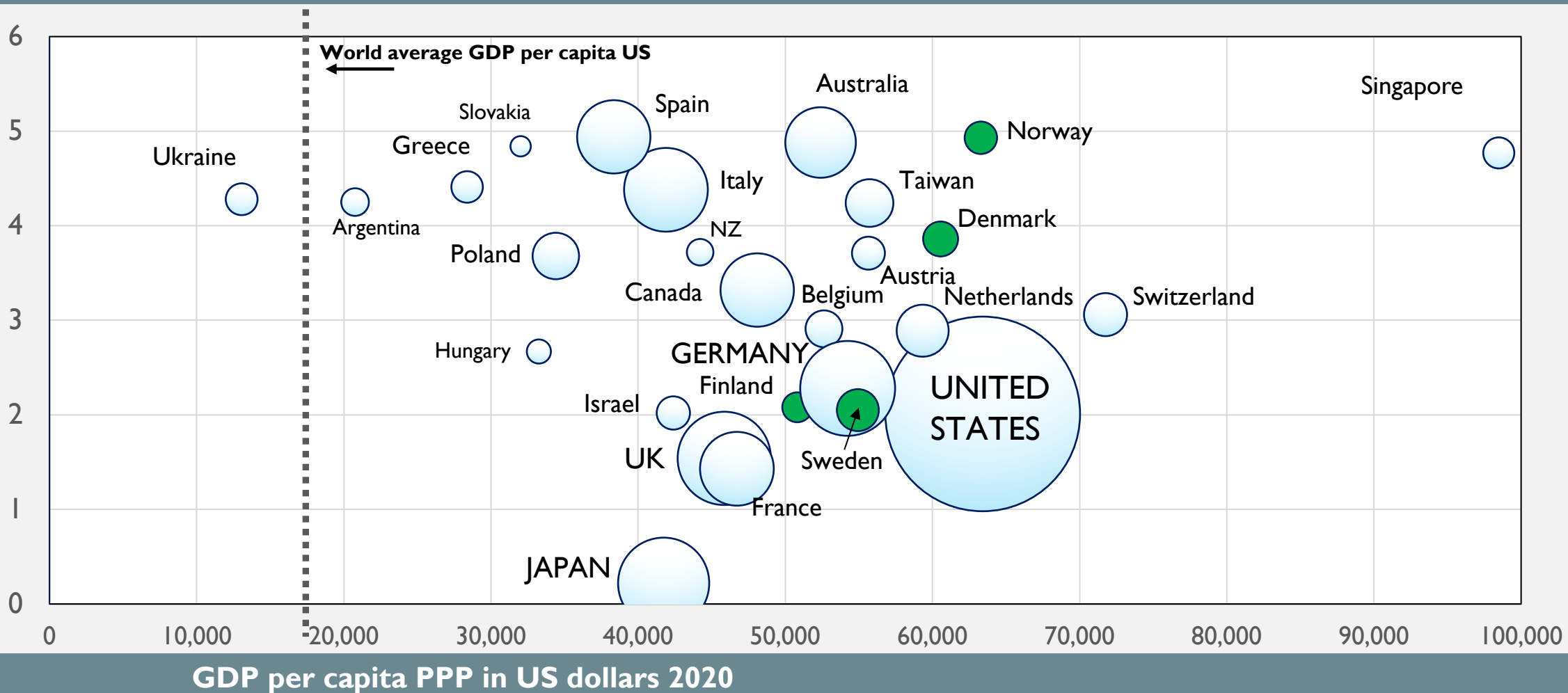


SLOWER GROWING SCIENCE SYSTEMS IN THE PERIOD 2000-2020

NATIONAL OUTPUT OF SCIENCE PAPERS GREW SLOWER THAN THE WORLD AVERAGE RATE OF 5.15% PER YEAR BETWEEN 2000 AND 2020 - COMPARED TO WORLD AVERAGE GDP PER CAPITA PPP (US \$17,083 IN 2020)

Science systems with 5,000 papers or more in 2020. Scopus data, fractional counting (NSF 2021). Current price GDP, PPP = purchasing power parity (World Bank 2022).

Growth
p.a.(%)
science
papers

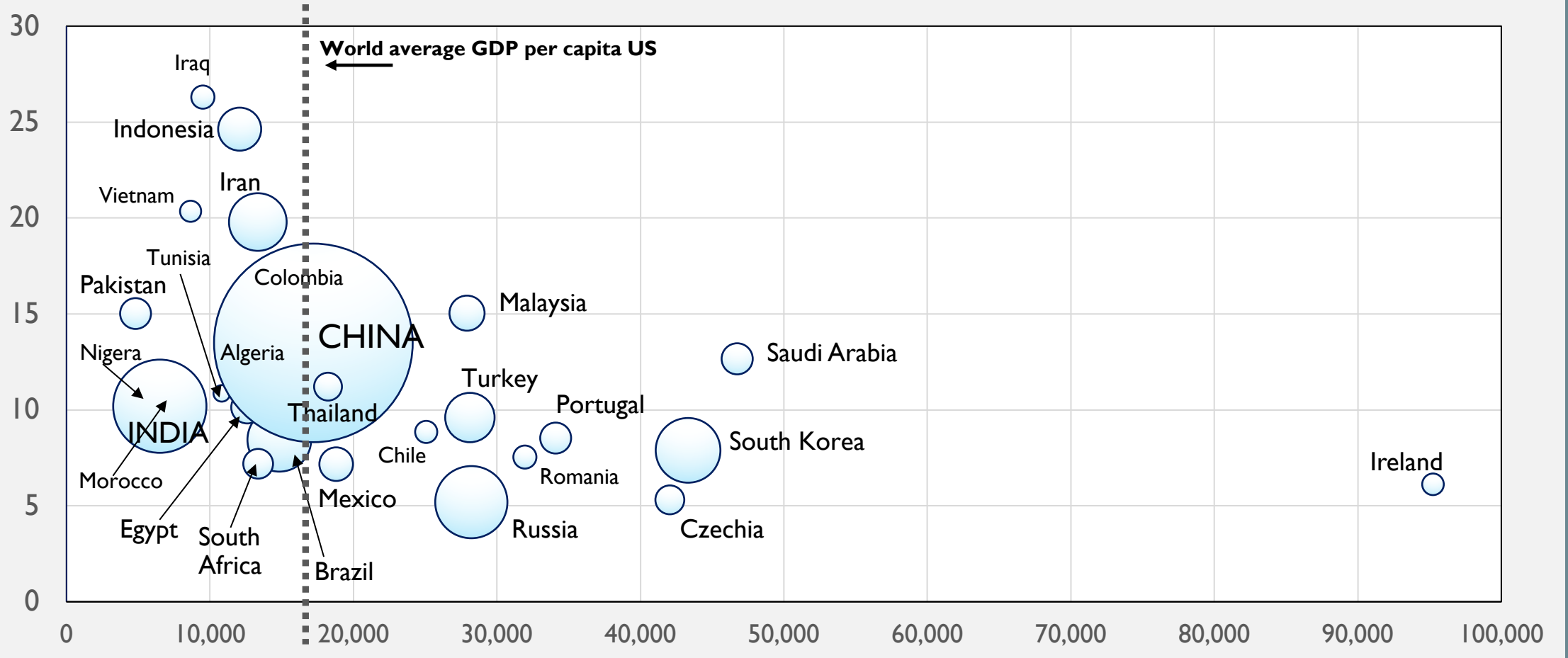


FAST GROWING SCIENCE SYSTEMS IN THE PERIOD 2000-2020

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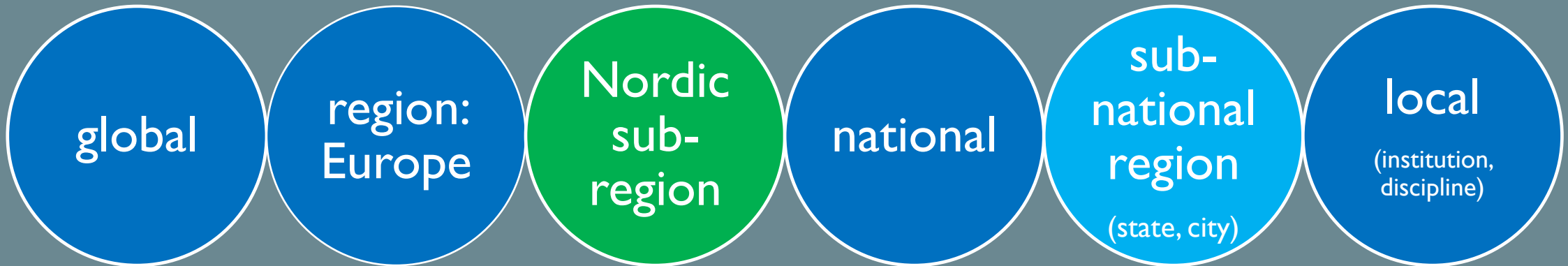
Growth
p.a.(%)
science
papers



GDP per capita PPP in US dollars 2020

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

IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE
ALL THE SCALES ARE HIGHLY ACTIVE



HIGHER EDUCATION CONTINUES TO BE A NATION- BUILDING SECTOR

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.

A wedge of Swiss cheese with several holes and a piece of white cheese are shown against a black background. The Swiss cheese is yellowish and has a triangular shape. The white cheese is a simple cylindrical shape.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCALES FUNDAMENTALLY
DIFFER FROM EACH OTHER

IS THE NATIONAL SCALE BECOMING MORE IMPORTANT VIS
A VIS THE GLOBAL THAN IT WAS? **PROBABLY, YES**

IS THE PAN-NATIONAL REGION BECOMING MORE
IMPORTANT VIS A VIS THE OTHER SCALES? **JURY IS OUT**

- The Americanised universal globalisation of the 1990s/2000s has given way to a multi-polar world (suggesting regionalisation?) but also
- American retreat from global inclusion in economy and culture (and higher education and science), Sino-American divide, all-round reassertion of nation-states
- There's no momentum for post-American globalisation





‘THERE ARE NO RULES OF SPACE AND PLACE’ - MASSEY

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

‘All things are in flux, like a river ...
Everything flows’

‘Whoever cannot seek the unforeseen, sees
nothing. The known way is an impasse.’

~ *Heraclitus of Ephesus (544-484 BCE)*

