

UUKi IHEF 28 FEBRUARY 2023

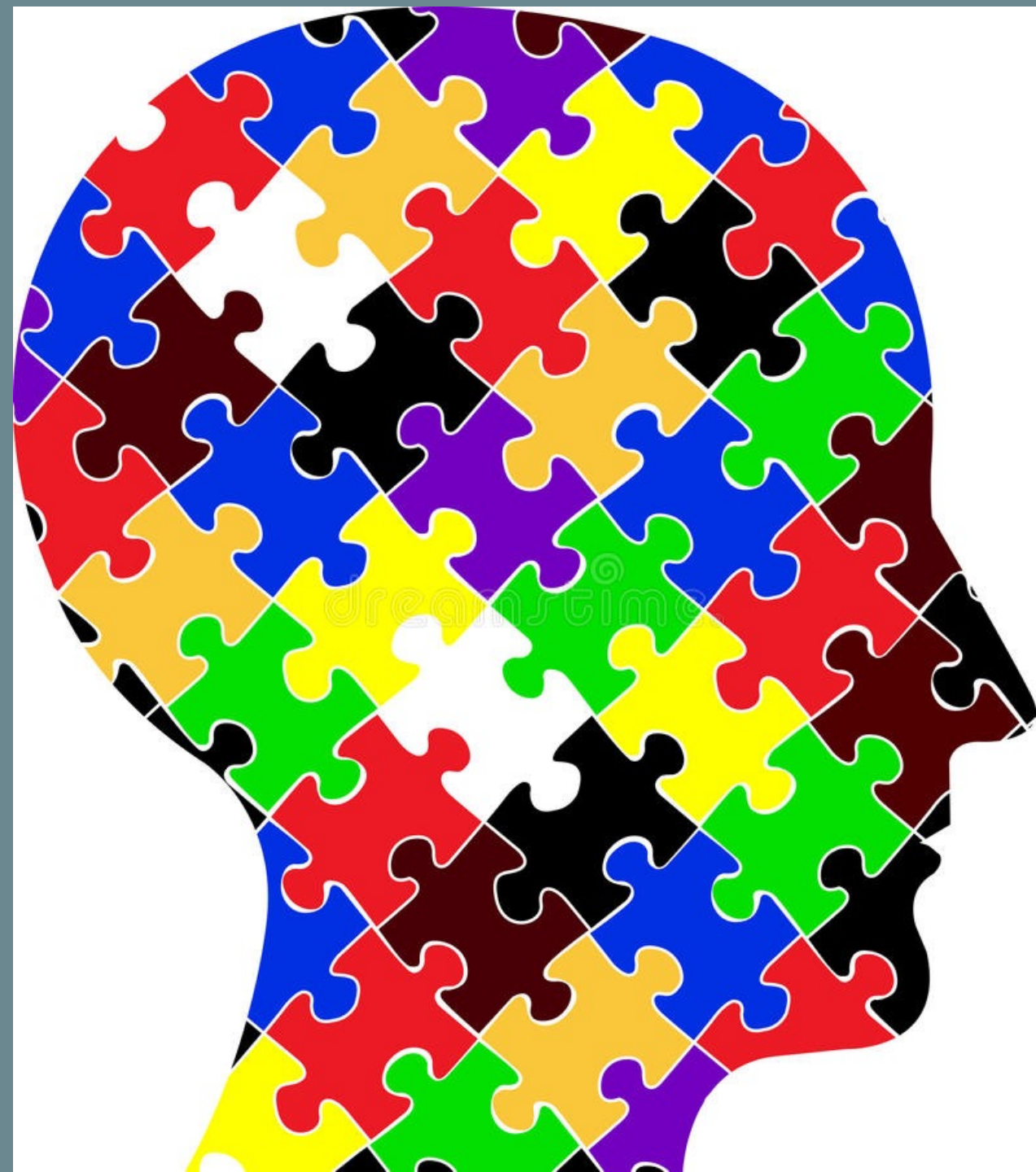
**THE ROLE OF
STUDENT
MOBILITY IN A
WORLD IN WHICH
GLOBALISM MAY
BE IN RETREAT**

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PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

1. Global economic integration (or not)
2. Global communications, culture and knowledge
3. Impact of global geopolitics
4. Net effects in student mobility



I. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (OR NOT)

A modest retreat from global economic convergence and integration in the last decade -

- The growth of cross-border trade has levelled off and protectionist practices have increased
- Partial retreat from global supply chains and offshoring
- The economic role of multinationals has slightly declined



Beach at Felixstowe, UK, after Brexit



2. GLOBAL COMMUNICATION, CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE

Growth: Rapid increases in R&D in many countries, published papers in bibliometrics (WoS and Scopus) growing at 5 per cent a year since 2000

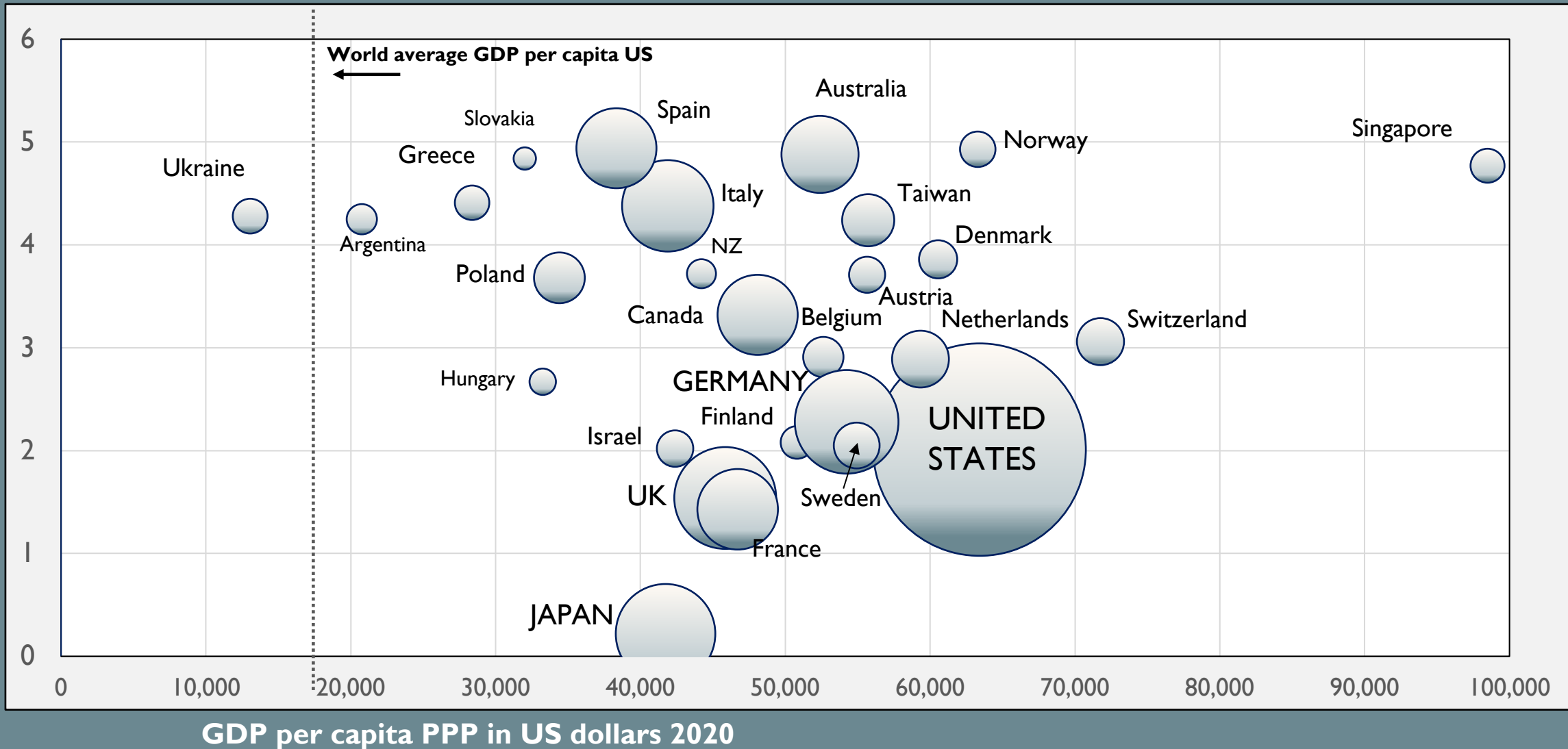
Networked and globally integrated cooperation: Great growth of co-authored global science, has continued at the same pace since economic globalisation began to retreat, underpins global university cooperation. Qualitative increase in role of global science vis-a-vis national systems

From uni-centred to duopoly to multi-centred: Science no longer an oligopoly of the West and Japan. Spreading to many more countries

SCIENCE SYSTEMS WHERE *OUTPUT 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)
World Data Atlas for Taiwan. NZ = New Zealand.

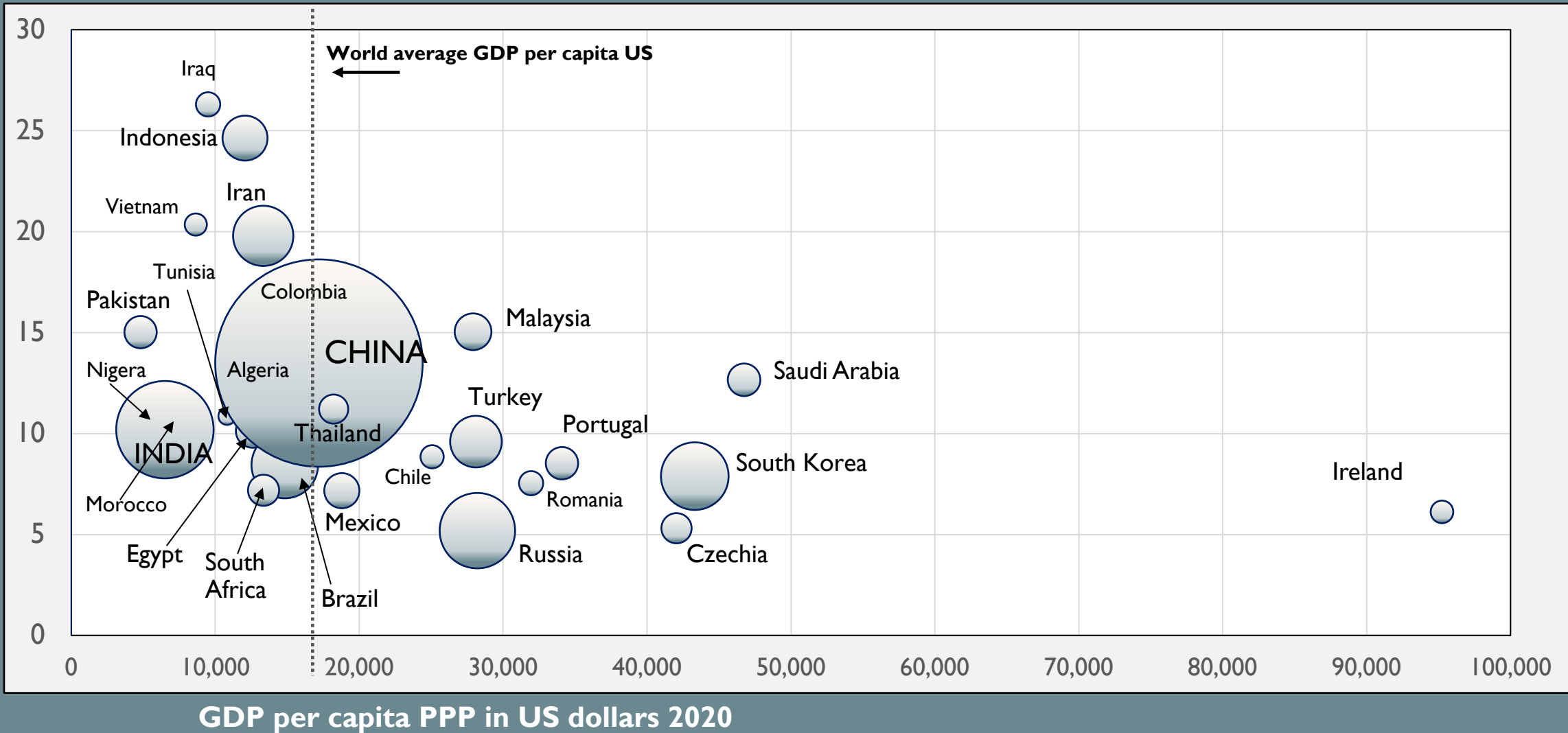
Growth
p.a.(%)
science
papers



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Growth
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3. IMPACT OF GLOBAL GEO-POLITICS

- Geopolitics apparent after 9/11 in student flows into the USA
- Brexit's retarding impact on movement of European students, researchers and staff into UK higher education
- US decoupling from China has impacted research collaboration and university partnership activity and created new visa barriers into US
- Some decline in US-China and Australia-China research collaboration
- Major impact of Russia/Ukraine war on academic and student flows





BUT GLOBAL GEO-POLITICS ARE CHANGING

- 2023 survey in 15 countries by European Council on Foreign Relations finds that West is united on Ukraine and sees the coming international order as the return of a cold war-type bipolarity between west and east, democracy and authoritarianism, BUT
- People in India, China and Turkey see it very differently, do not expect Western domination to continue
- The independent rising and middle powers don't have a common ideology, but nor are they 'content to adjust to the whims and plans of the superpowers'
- Brazil's new president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva emphasises multipolarity and wants to build good relations with both the USA and China

Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

4. NET EFFECTS IN STUDENT MOBILITY

- Business as (pre-pandemic) usual in most respects. Anglophone two US & UK, retain their drawing power
- China will resume inward mobility growth, though outward student movement may slow
- Nation-specific blips, some large: Brexit's effects in UK, Chinese students into US likely to fall
- India outward will be volatile
- Longer-term: multi-polarity generates diversification in hubs and flows



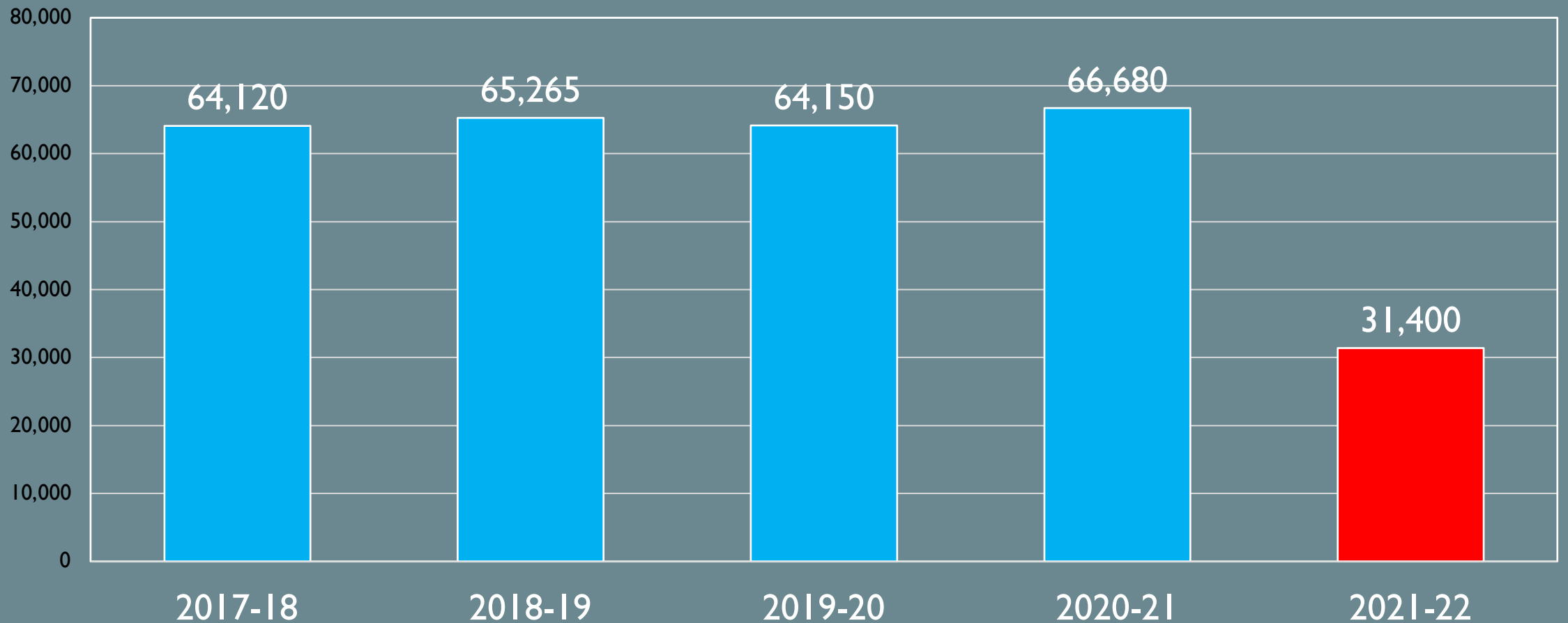
BUSINESS AS PRE-PANDEMIC USUAL IN SHORT-TERM

- Online has never been a substitute for in-place learning with high legitimacy degrees, social networking benefits, and cultural-linguistic immersion
- Climate change should dictate we fly much less but this change will be a slow burn
- Regional mobility a very modest substitute for mobility into Europe and the Anglophone world: global mobility is partly about upward socio-economic mobility and passage into 'global Whiteness'
- In the Anglophone two (US & UK), total inward mobility is supply driven, they can issue as many visas as they want, though individual institutions must foster student demand from the fixed size pool

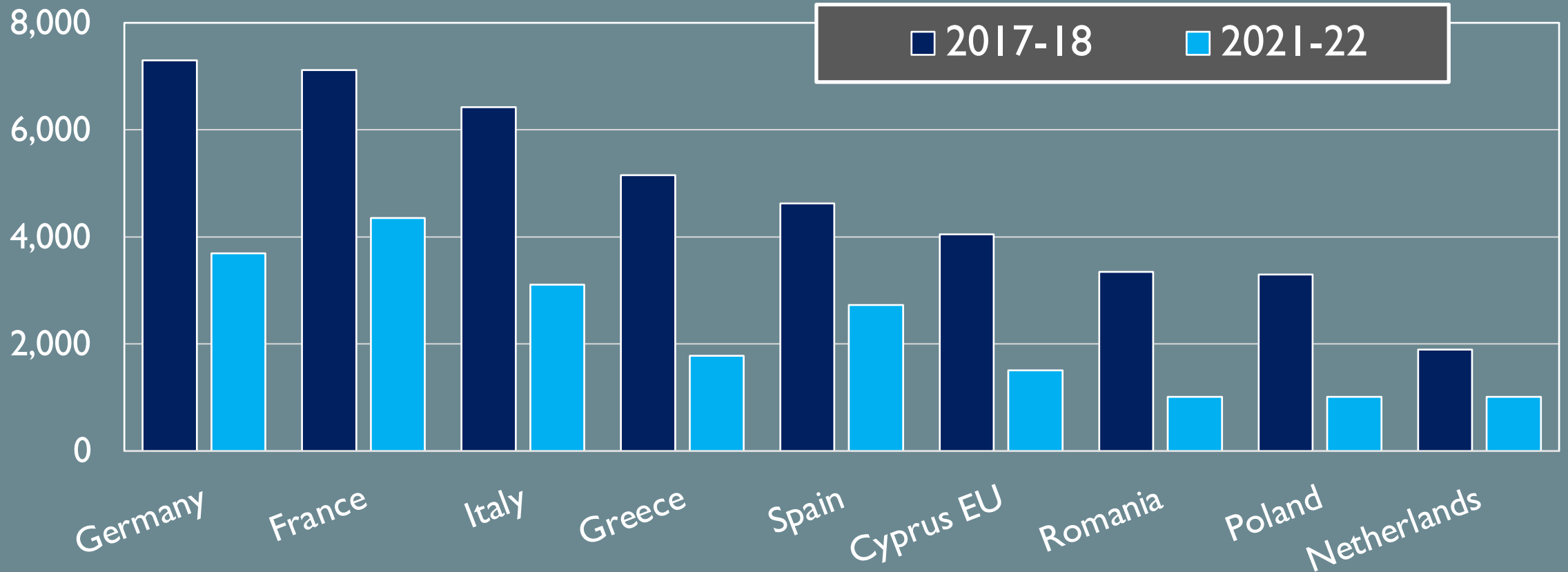


Shahjahan, R.A., Edwards, K.T. (2021)
Whiteness as futurity and globalization of
higher education. *Higher Education* .
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-021-00702-x>

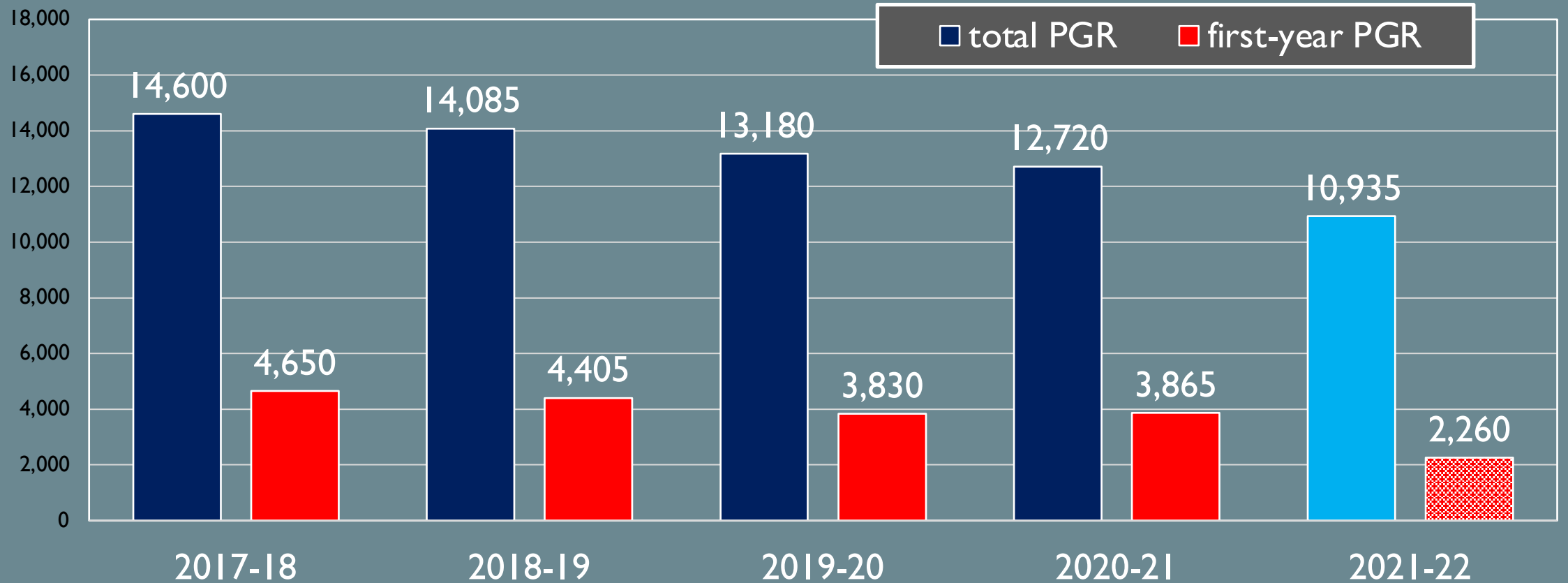
AS WELL AS THE LOSS OF ERASMUS STUDENTS IN UK, FIRST YEAR EU STUDENTS IN UK DEGREES ARE DOWN SHARPLY: CHANGE FROM 2017-18 TO 2021-22



DECLINE IN NUMBERS OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS FROM EU COUNTRIES ENROLLED IN UK: 2017-18 AND 2021-22



POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS FROM EU IN UK DEGREES, *TOTAL NUMBER AND FIRST YEAR STUDENTS* 2017-18 TO 2021-22



IT CAN ALL CHANGE VERY QUICKLY
PREDICTIONS ARE USUALLY WRONG

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)*

