

# *Has International Learning enhanced academic career development? Evidence from Chinese PhD returnees*

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# Progress Report

## CGHE Project: UK international graduates in East Asia: Careers, earnings, jobs, mobility

### ■ Pilot study completed in 2017

- Findings were presented in CGHE annual meeting 2017
- Paper has been accepted by *Higher Education Quarterly*:  
*International and Transnational Education for Whose Interests?*  
*A Study on the Career Development of Chinese Students*

### ■ Working in Progress

- Qualitative Interviews
- Online Survey
- Collaboration with Peking University: International learning experience of Chinese PhD returnees
- Examining also Hong Kong and Macau high school students enrolling in Chinese universities and their job search / career development experiences

# Has International Learning enhanced academic career development? Evidence from Chinese PhD returnees

- Data: Survey data & the Scopus data
  - **National Survey** on government funded PhD returnees in China
    - a collaborative project between China Scholarship Council (CSC) and Peking University conducted in 2014.
  - **Scopus data** on the number of international publications of the corresponding PhD returnees.
  
- Analysis
  - how the international learning experience affects **PhD returnees' employment in top universities** (measured by *Project 985 Universities*)

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## Key findings

### ■ International learning experience is important

- The experience helps returnees to **overcome their disadvantage of their undergraduate study**
- It is a “norm” that PhD degree holders working in a top university shall own a bachelor degree from a top university, however, this “norm” does not hold for PhD returnees’ employment in a top university

### ■ Country of doctoral study matters

- Comparing with those in Asia Pacific countries, PhD returnees **from the UK and some European countries** (e.g., Italy, Switzerland, Netherland, etc.) are more likely to work in a top university

### ■ Publication is crucial

- PhD returnees with **more international publications** during their PhD study are more likely to work in a top university.

### ■ Ranking does not matter

- The rankings of universities, majors of returnees’ doctoral study, and whether their supervisor is full professor do NOT have significant effects on their employment.

(Results are based on regression analyses conditional on individuals’ characteristics and doctoral majors)

# Publications forthcoming or in preparation

- “Does internationalization of higher education still matter? Critical reflections on student learning, graduate employment and faculty development in Asia”, paper accepted by *Higher Education Quarterly*, forthcoming;
- “Has international learning enhanced academic career development? Evidence from Chinese PhD returnees”, paper under preparation for *Higher Education Policy* as part of a special issue;
- “Promoting national identity through higher education and employment: Government policy responses and implementation reality in China”, Paper under review by *Higher Education Policy and Management*;
- Planning a **Book Proposal** to report the analysis of the present research project

Thank you

*All comments and suggestions are more than  
welcome*