

Local and global public good contributions of higher education in China

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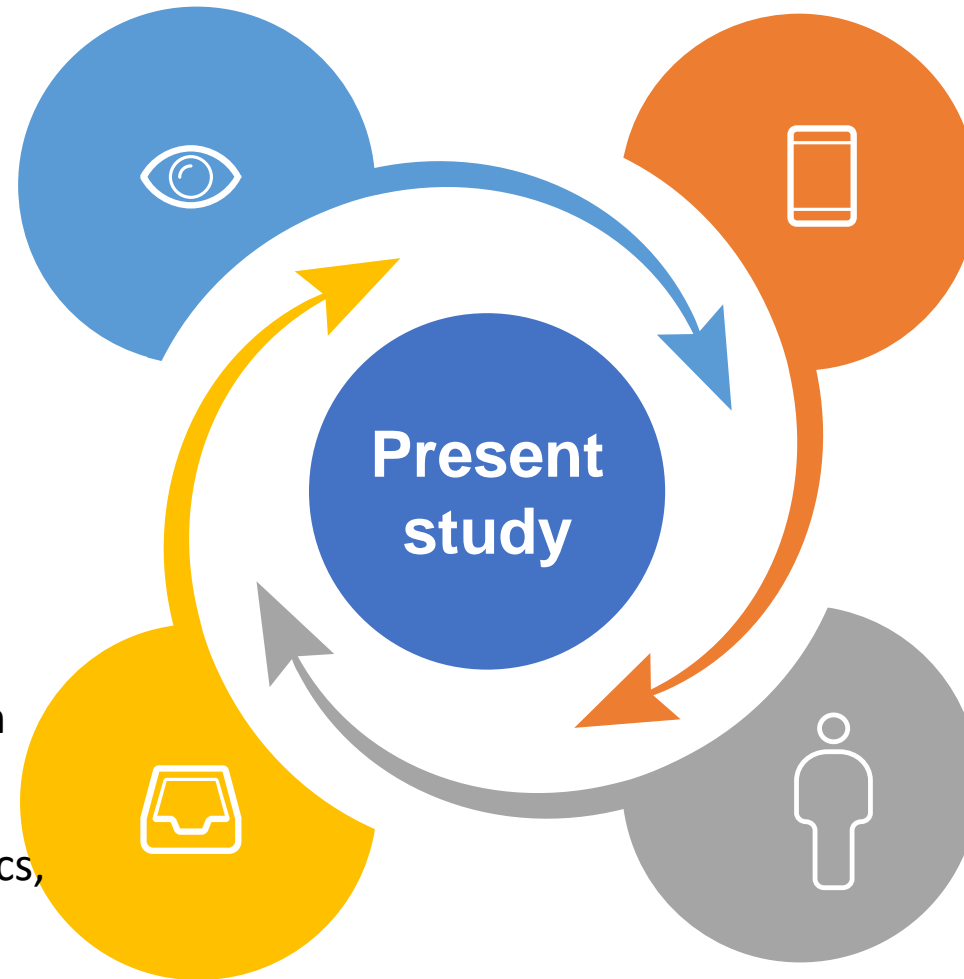
Overview

Concept

- “A commodity or service provided without profit to all members of a society, either by the government or a private individual or organization”;
- Non-excludability and non-rivalry;
- Generating externalities.

Comparison

- Universities: top national research university, local university;
- Disciplines: engineering, economics, history.



Purpose

- Exploring the perspectives of Chinese participants on higher education and public good(s).
- Attempting to define, observe, monitor and where possible measure such goods in Chinese higher education.

Method

- Semi-structured interviews;
- 24 Chinese participants;
- Government/agencies and universities;
- Officer, (vice) presidents, directors, deans, professors, lectures.

Higher education (HE) in China



Present

Market economy

1992 to present: the “big government, new market” under the market economy, HE is **a quasi-public good** in China.

Setting the goal of reform

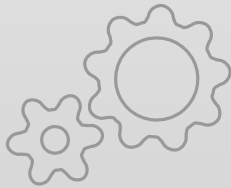
1992



1978-1992: the “big government, small market” under the commodity economy system, HE was **shifting from a pure public good to a quasi-public good** in China.

1978

Exploring period



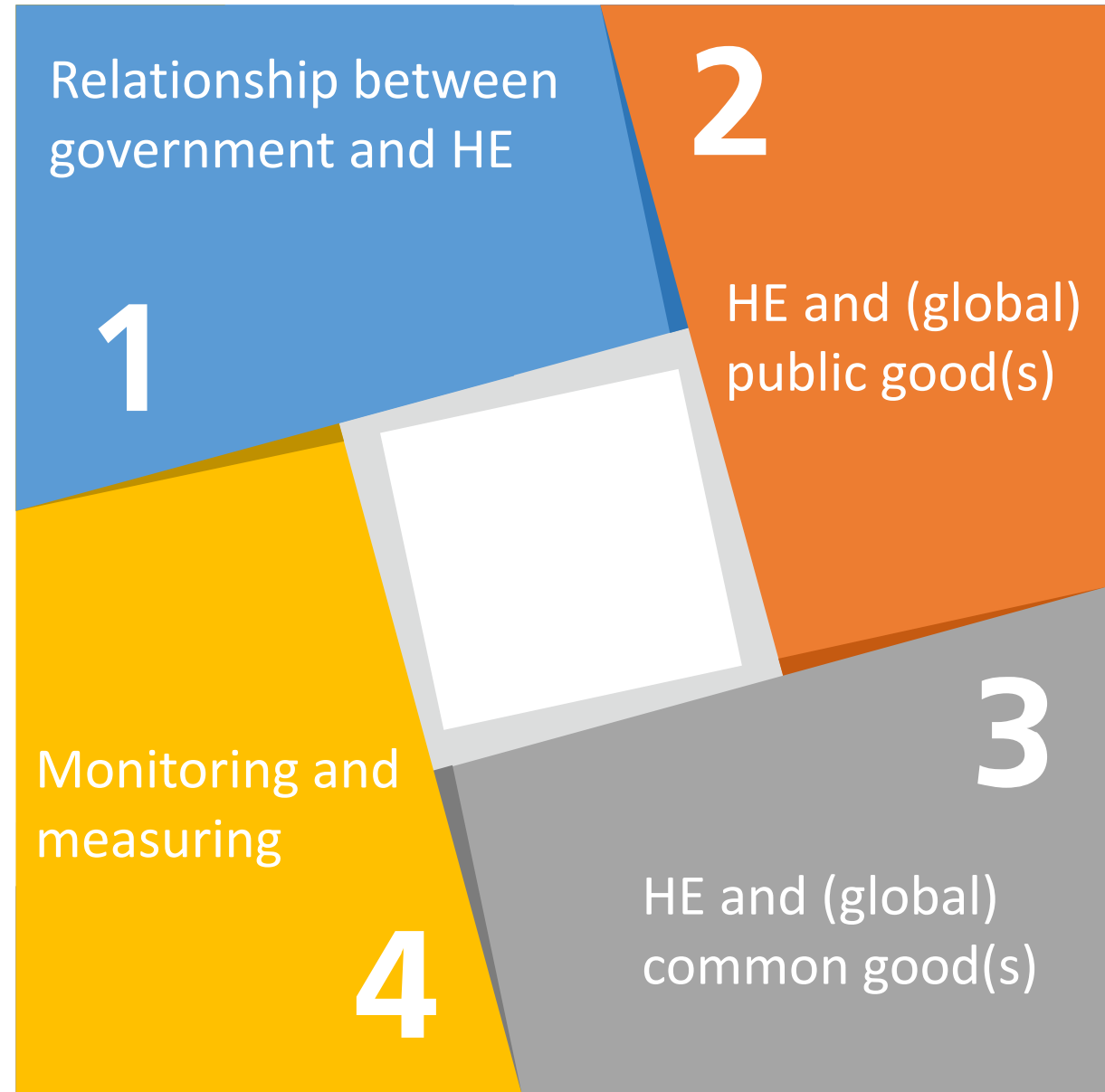
1949-1978: the “big government, no market” under the planned economy, HE was **a pure public good** in China.

Planned economy

1949

Research Questions:

1. What is the relationship between government and higher education in China?
2. How does higher education in China relates to (global) public good(s)?
3. How does higher education in China relates to (global) common good(s)?
4. How can the above-mentioned goods be monitored and measured in China?



1. Relationship between government and HE

- Government plays a dominant role in HE system
- Primary financial supporter for public universities
- Positive and effective

2. HE and (global) public good(s) in China

- The public good (*gong yi xing*) of HE
- Public goods (*gong yi wu pin / gong yi chan pin*) in HE
- HE in China is not a pure public good; public nature is maintained
- Global public goods in HE may be different throughout the world
- The private and public goods of HE can grow together

3. HE and (global) common good(s) in China

- Collective endeavour; participation; community
- “Public” and “common” are very similar in China
- HE in China is closely related to common good(s)
- Global common goods or the global common good is related to all people worldwide (mobility, research, knowledge)
- A community of shared future for mankind (*ren lei ming yun gong tong ti*)

4. Monitoring, regulating and measuring such goods

- The measurement of public or common goods differs according to their characteristics
- Government and universities should regulate and monitor universities' contributions to these goods

Thank you!

