New Research on Internationalization: Moving from Theory to Practice

Laura E. Rumbley, Boston College
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New research on internationalization

Our agenda

To provide information on useful sources of relevant research

To present some specific examples of new or forthcoming research of potential interest

To stimulate discussion around SIO needs for, and consumption of, research
How does each of us relate to research in the field, in practical terms?

1. What research does your institution undertake (or commission) in relation to internationalization?

2. What are the key sources of research you turn to to inform campus practice?

3. Where are the gaps?
What is IERN?

An engagement platform

Initially launched in October 2011

Initiative of the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA)

Overseen by IEAA Research Committee

Seed funding from Australian Government Department of Education and Training
What does IERN do?

Inform → Connect → Collaborate

- inform the international education research agenda
- provide a platform to connect researchers with practitioners and policy-makers
- promote collaboration and provide ready access to key resources and publications
How does IERN inform?

- Research Digests
- Analysis of key trends
- Other research reports

How does IERN connect?

LinkedIn discussion group

Twitter feed - @TheIERN

Email newsletter

Research events
  - In Australia
  - In Asia
How does IERN support collaboration?

Research events in Australia
- International Research Roundtable
- Researchers’ Seminar

Research events in Asia
- IERN Asia Symposium

Web resources
- Finding Researchers
- Global Connections
- Links to IDP Database of Research on International Education
IERN in action

Two reports – research trends analysis


HOT TOPICS

- 4,616 separate keywords/phrases
- ‘Higher education’ - Most popular keyword
- ‘Study abroad’ - Student mobility - Trending up

TOP 15 KEYWORDS

- Student mobility
- Educational markets
- Universities
- International education
- Student attitudes
- Study Abroad
- Student experience
- Higher education
- Internationalisation
- Educational policy
- Postsecondary education
- English (Second language)
- Globalisation
- International students
- University students
COUNTRY FOCUS

167
Research looks at 167 countries/regions

50.2%
of research looks at English-speaking countries

Declining focus on Australia, relative to increase in international records
REGIONAL FOCUS

- Europe North America Middle East: trending up
- Asia: trending down

22.7% of research looks at Asia or an Asian country

Oceania: decline linked to steady increase in international records
Publication Type

Journal of Studies in International Education is the leading journal

Publication in academic journals is trending up

50%
Over 50% of research is published in academic journals

Top three journals for 2011-2014:
1. Journal of Studies in International Education
2. Journal of International Students
3. International Higher Education, Boston College

Top three journals for 2014:
1. Journal of International Students
2. Journal of Studies in International Education
3. Higher Education
15% of research is published in research reports.

Leading report publishers include Australian Government agencies, British Council (UK) and Institute of International Education (USA).


18% of research is published in books or book chapters.

Over 130 research theses recorded in IDP-DRIE from 2011-2014.

Majority from Australia and USA.

Note: IDP-DRIE only references English language materials.
IERN – research trends analysis

Full 2014 report & 2014/2015 infographics available online:

www.ieaa.org.au/iern
IERN outreach

Asia Pacific
- APAIE
- JAFSA, Japan

Americas
- AIEA, USA
- CBIE, Canada
- FAUBAI, Brazil
- NAFSA, USA (Research and Scholarship Network)

Europe
- EAIE (Researchers in Int’l Education group)

Africa
- ANIE
- IEASA, South Africa
How to connect with IERN

Explore the IERN website

LinkedIn discussion group
- Simply search for IERN on LinkedIn

Twitter
- Follow @TheIERN

Email newsletter
New research on internationalization

Laura E. Rumbley, PhD
Associate Director
www.bc.edu/research/cihe

February 22, 2016
Montréal
The Boston College Center for International Higher Education

- Founded in 1995
- Dedicated to advancing knowledge about the complex realities of higher education in the contemporary world
- Promotes the belief that an international perspective is needed to foster enlightened policies and practices in higher education
- Research, analysis, events, visiting scholars, graduate education (new MA in International Higher Education)
The Boston College Center for International Higher Education

- Comparative perspectives
- Critical perspectives
- Scholarly perspectives
- Practical perspectives
The Boston College Center for International Higher Education

- Forthcoming (2016)
- 11 countries
- Insight into national contexts
- Examination of institutional experiences and responses to pressures and opportunities presented by rankings
Integrating International Faculty into the Local University Context

- In process
- 10-11 countries
- Insight into national contexts
- In-depth examination of institutional experiences related to the recruitment and integration of international faculty hires
The Boston College Center for International Higher Education

Catholic Universities: Identity and Internationalization

- Pilot stage
- 3 case study institutions in 3 countries
- In-depth examination of how Catholic universities understand their particular mission and profile and how (or if) this has an impact on internationalization strategies or activities
The Boston College Center for International Higher Education

- New report series
- No. 1: “Sage Advice: International Advisory Councils at Tertiary Education Institutions”
The Boston College Center for International Higher Education

- **International Briefs for Higher Education Leaders**
- ACE-CIHE collaboration
- 5 published since 2012
- April 2016: “Engaging with Europe: Enduring ties, new opportunities”
The Boston College Center for International Higher Education


Figure 1 - Geographic distribution of the sample
Some key findings:

• A specialized and professional field

• International higher education as a “side activity”
  o Content
  o Devoted staff time
Some key findings (cont’d):

• Primary focus on own region:
  o Content
  o Networks

• Little effort to translate findings from original language of publication (or English).
ACE’s Internationalization Research

Robin Matross Helms
Associate Director for Research
ACE Center for Internationalization & Global Engagement
February 22, 2015
American Council on Education (ACE)

Mission and Goals
- Umbrella organization
- Leadership & advocacy
- National & international mission

Membership
- Approximately 1800 institutions
- All sectors of U.S. higher education
ACE Center for Internationalization & Global Engagement (CIGE)

www.acenet.edu/cige

Internationalization of US Institutions

Programs

Global Engagement

Research
CIGE Research Principles

• Internationalization & global engagement
• Strategic & practical
• Analysis & examples
• Quantitative & qualitative data
• Various venues for distribution
• Contribute to policy conversations

All resources are available at www.acenet.edu/cige
International Higher Education Partnerships: A Global Review of Standards & Practices

• Analyzed statements in ACE’s Blue Ribbon Panel Report
  – UNESCO & OECD
  – International Association of Universities
  – Council of Europe
  – Forum on Education Abroad
  – New England Association of Schools & Colleges

• Common themes & key gaps
• Analysis & case examples
• Inform campus discussions
### Themes

#### Administration & Management Issues
- Transparency & accountability
- Faculty & staff engagement
- Quality assurance
- *Strategic planning & role of leadership

#### Cultural & Contextual Issues
- Cultural awareness
- Access & equity
- Institutional & human capacity building
- *Ethical dilemmas & “negotiated space”
Internationalizing the Tenure Code: Policies to Promote a Globally Focused Faculty
Methodology

Qualitative analysis of 91 tenure codes from 61 institutions

Community college example: Middlesex College
By the Numbers

- Few references to teaching activities
- Reputation most prevalent in institution-level codes
- Research most prevalent at school and department level
- No notable differences by institution type

Percentage of Policies with International References in Each Category
By the Numbers

• Almost half of policies only address international work in one category

Percentage of Policies with International References in Single or Multiple Categories of Faculty Work (Teaching, Research, Service, Reputation, and Contributions to Internationalization)
Key question: How much actual international engagement is entailed?
What and How: Institutional Context

• Assess the overall state of internationalization on campus

• Consider existing barriers & “lived reality”

• Educate & engage campus stakeholders throughout the process
What and How: Policy Content

• **Align** criteria with internationalization goals

• Be realistic (and deliberate) about “and” versus “or”

• Make it easy for faculty to **showcase** their internationalization-related work
Conclusion

• “Evolutionary process”

• More research needed
  – Effectiveness of policies
  – Engaging non-tenure track faculty
The 2016 *Mapping Internationalization on U.S. Campuses* survey is LIVE!

- Only **comprehensive** source of data and analysis on U.S. higher education internationalization.
- 2016 survey sent to **CAOs/Provosts** at 2900+ degree-granting, accredited institutions on February 9th.
- **You can help!**
  - Encourage your provost to complete the survey promptly.
  - Provide requested statistics & information.
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