Mapping the Borderland of the Knowledge Society: International Portfolios and Global Partnerships of Universities in Transition

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Mapping the Borderland of the Knowledge Society:
International Portfolios and Global Partnerships of Universities in Transition

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Introduction

i) Facilitate a critical analysis on the role of Ukrainian national research universities as organizations that not only produce and disseminate knowledge, but assimilate and adapt global knowledge to national needs.

ii) Provide a critical overview of *globalization, internationalization, the knowledge society* and *macro-policy shifts* in an effort to contextualize these distinct, but highly inter-related constructs within the context of higher education in Ukraine.

ii) Conceptual framework
Universities as agents of change

• Universities have become strategic actors and agents of change.

• The concepts of globalization and internationalization are closely linked to the knowledge society.

• The 2014 “Law on Higher Education” has been referred to Ukraine’s ‘next revolution’ following the EuroMaidan.

• The Soviet higher education legacy and the pressures of globalization reveal a dual framework whereby adaptive responses and entrenched management logics run parallel (and often in conflict) with one another.

• These opposing projects often draw upon hybrid rationalities resulting in ‘mutations’ at the policy level.
Towards the Europe of Knowledge

- Universities are major interlocutors in the global knowledge society; however, for the Ukrainian higher education system, specific challenges remain.

- Post-socialist states have “become a part of another transformation process shared with the rest of the European Union – toward knowledge-based societies” (Silova 2009).

- The ‘Europe of Knowledge’ is being built upon existing national higher education frameworks.

- Questions of ‘Bologna compatibility’ remain.
Methodology

• University experiences are examined by using a combination of institutional change theory (North 1990) and the Delta Cycle for Internationalization (Rumbley 2010).

• At the core of the Delta cycle is the fundamental concept of internationalization representing a function of institutional change against a fluid global environment.

• North’s (1990) theory of institutional change is highly salient to this study, since it is driven in part by ‘network externalities’ and ‘lock-in’.
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Delta Cycle for Internationalization
Source: Rumbley (2010)
Questions & Comments