

Internationalization of higher education and science diplomacy in Iran

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My thesis

The world works with a significant **political agenda** and this political agenda looks like a spectrum, in one side there is a **hegemony theory** and in the other side there is a **cooperation theory**. Internationalization of higher education and science diplomacy can be traced and discussed in both sides of this agenda.



Three parts in the presentation

- 1) Part one: the world today and the role of science and technology
- 2) Part two: internationalization of higher education
- 3) Part three: science diplomacy

Part one: the world today and the role of science and technology

- **A big picture of the world**
- **The status and role of higher education in the world**
- **Globalization as a platform for internationalization of higher education**

The world we live in...

It is easier to get free Wifi than to get free water and people act like nothing is wrong with this world...

The world today



The World's 10 Worst Problems (Millennials)

- 1. Climate change and destruction of natural resources (45.2 percent)**
- 2. Large scale conflict and wars (38.5 percent)**
- 3. Religious conflicts (33.8 percent)**
- 4. Poverty (31.1 percent)**
- 5. Government accountability and transparency, and corruption (21.7 percent)**
- 6. Safety, security, and well-being (18.1 percent)**
- 7. Lack of education (16.5 percent)**
- 8. Lack of political freedom and political instability (15.5 percent)**
- 9. Food and water security (15.1 percent)**
- 10. Lack of economic opportunity and unemployment (14.2 percent)**

The world: socio-political dimensions

- people
- Ideas and cultures
- Governments and political systems
- Nations

So, we live in a complicated world that needs scientific solutions

Higher education in the world today

Article 1 - Mission to educate, to train and to undertake research

- **advance, create and disseminate knowledge** through **research** and provide relevant expertise to assist societies in cultural, social and economic development, promoting and developing scientific and technological research as well as research in the social sciences, the humanities and the creative arts;
 - help **understand, interpret, preserve, enhance, promote and disseminate national and regional, international and historic cultures**, in a context of cultural pluralism and diversity
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Globalization and internationalization of higher education

- Globalization is an inevitable process (culture, trade and science)
- International cooperation in science and technology
- Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research

The status and the role of higher education in world today

- **Shifts in scientific policy-making and strategy:** Triple helix perspective versus Merton norms: The **Entrepreneurial University** is a central concept to the Triple Helix.
- **Knowledge society**
- **Academic capitalism**
- **Geography of knowledge and brain drain**
- **Branches of sciences and power relationship : the** hegemony of natural sciences and engineering over social sciences

So what then?

- **Our knowledge has significantly increased but there is unbalanced development in the world**
 - **It is easier to get free Wifi than to get free water, and people act like nothing is wrong with this world...**
 - **That is why we need science diplomacy to be integrated into internationalization of higher education**
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Part two: internationalization of higher education

- United nation and the internationalization of higher education in 21st century
- A framework fro internationalization of higher education
- Internationalization of higher education in the world and Iran

United nation and internationalization of higher education

Article 15 - Sharing knowledge and know-how across borders and continents

- The principle of true partnership amongst higher education institutions worldwide is crucial for education and training in all fields that encourage an understanding of **global issues**, the role of democratic governance and skilled human resources in their resolution, and **the need for living together with different cultures** and values. The practice of **multilingualism**, faculty and student exchange programmes and institutional linkage to promote intellectual and scientific co-operation should be an integral part of all higher education systems
- Consideration should be given to the need for safeguarding higher education institutional capacities in regions suffering from **conflict or natural disasters**. Consequently, an international dimension should permeate the curriculum, and the teaching and learning processes.
- Regional and international **normative instruments for the recognition of studies** should be ratified and implemented, including certification of the skills, competences and abilities of graduates, making it easier for students to change courses, in order to facilitate mobility within and between national systems.

Internationalization of higher education

- the process of integrating an international or intercultural dimension into the teaching, research and service functions of the institutions.

Knight [2004](#), p. 11”

- It reflects a set of activities or strategies that institutions formulate in order to respond to increased globalization.

Types of internationalization

- 1. Comprehensive Internationalization:** the planned, strategic integration of international, intercultural, and global dimensions into the ethos and outcomes of higher education
- 2. Internationalization of the Curriculum:** Internationalization of the curriculum is the incorporation of international, intercultural and/or global dimensions into the content of the curriculum as well as the learning outcomes, assessment tasks, teaching methods and support services of a program of study” (Leask [2015](#))
- 3. Internationalization at Home:** comprises activities that help students develop international understanding and intercultural skills.
- 4. Internationalization abroad:** Internationalization Abroad consists of all forms of education across borders, mobility of students, teachers, scholars, programs, courses, curriculum and projects

A structure : four axes

- **Internationalization of institutional culture.** With the objectives of: improving linguistic competence of all University members.
 - **Teaching and research** with an international dimension. With the objectives of: fostering the internationalization of the training offer, promoting international R&D, rewarding capabilities and international initiatives of the staff by increasing the participation in international public calls of teaching and research.
 - **Development of mobility and international networks.** With the objectives of: enabling the participation in university networks with outstanding quality, improving the quality and the managing mobility/international exchange activities and diversifying the types of mobility taking into account the geographical regions.
 - **International cooperation for development**
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Trends in internationalization of higher education in the world

- [general mobility trend](#)
- [Out and inbound mobility](#)
- [OECD region](#)
- [Iran](#)

Where will outbound Iranian students go in the coming years?

- **Europe** is one region poised to see increased Iranian enrollments. **Germany**, which offers high quality graduate-level engineering programs, many in English, saw a 20 percent increase in Iranian student enrollments between 2013 and 2015.
- **Italy**, like Germany, is an important trading partner for Iran as well as an increasingly attractive education destination for Iranian students abroad. In 2014, it became the fourth most popular country among outbound Iranian students.
- **Malaysia** and Turkey have already begun to attract significant numbers of outbound Iranian students. In 2012, 8,170 Iranians comprised one of the largest groups of foreign students in the Malaysia
- In 2014, **Turkey** was the second most popular destination country after the U.S. with 4,343 students

Inbound students in Iran

- Some 52,000 international students are currently studying in the country at the university level where a large number of programs are taught in the English language.
- Among them are nationals from Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, Japan, China, Syria, Moldavia, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, Singapore, the US, Australia, Pakistan, the Netherlands, Korea, Armenia, Italy, Canada, France, Bahrain, the UK, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Russia, Denmark, Senegal, Lebanon, Mexico, India, Germany, Egypt, Taiwan, Romania, Slovakia, Pakistan, Croatia, Nigeria, Oman, Serbia, Slovenia, Vietnam, Georgia, and Sudan.
- Around 50% of foreign students' study humanities (including Persian language), 30% are enrolled in technical and engineering courses, 17% in medical sciences and the remaining 3% are art students.

The form of internationalization of higher education in Iran

- comprehensive internationalization ?
- Internationalization at home?
- curriculum internationalization?
- Campus internationalization
- Internationalization abroad?

Part three: Science diplomacy

Science and technology in diplomacy: Science can provide advice to inform and support foreign policy objectives

Diplomacy for science and technology: Diplomacy can facilitate international scientific cooperation

Science and technology for diplomacy: Scientific cooperation can improve international relations (American Association for the Advancement of Science)

How to Bridge the World through Science and technology?

Science diplomacy in the world: The U.S.

- *The U.S. View: Educational Exchanges as a Form of Soft Power: In 2006, the U.S. State Department established a program called “[EducationUSA Opportunity Funds](#)” in the spirit of its so-called “[transformational diplomacy](#)”. The program was designed to facilitate the enrollment of foreign students at U.S. institutions by establishing advisement centers abroad to inform students on application and immigration procedures. The “[EducationUSA Iran](#)” program established in 2007 .*

- **EducationUSA Opportunity Funds**

Asia: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

Europe: Belarus, Bosnia, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine

Middle East & North Africa: Egypt, Lebanon

Sub-Saharan Africa: Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela

Science diplomacy other countries

- European union (mainly science for diplomacy)
- China (science in diplomacy and science for diplomacy)
- Japan (science for diplomacy)
- Canada (mainly science for diplomacy)
- Australia (mainly science for diplomacy)
- Malaysia (mainly science for diplomacy)

Science diplomacy in Iran : background

- Iran as a key figure in middle east (geopolitical phenomenon)
- political tension with U.S. and few European countries
- nuclear challenges and economics sanction
- high quality universities and research
- Role in Islamic world

Approach in Iran's science diplomacy

- organization and structure (Ministry of foreign affairs and ministry of science, research and technology)
- The [reasons, strategies and outputs](#) : (economic, scientific, and political)
- The status, forms of science diplomacy and data

Conclusion

- a question: how sciences can help the world solve its problems?
 - a theory : the world has a political agenda, in one side with hegemony orientation and in one side with cooperating approach
 - Regarding internationalization of higher education and science diplomacy, hegemony approach I still on the table and science has not significantly integrated into either higher education policy or foreign policy to solve our problems
 - Iran higher education is developing in its mission for internationalization and science diplomacy
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