
CIES 2020
Jason E. Lane & Maria Khan

Purpose

Compare and contrast, how internationally, the behavior of national governments differs in terms of how they regulate activities of their own public higher educational institutions, and how they regulate the activities of foreign HEIs within their borders.

Research Questions

1. What behaviors are exhibited by the international/regional regulatory bodies in regards to the exporting and importing of public colleges and universities?
2. Do countries operate under a similar contract with a common regulatory framework for both importing and exporting HEIs?
3. How does the principal-agent relationship with the regulating government differ between cross-border producers and indigenous higher education institutions?

Conceptual Framework: Principal-Agent Theory

Methodology: Qualitative Document Analysis

Main Findings

Countries are members of more than one organization which means they acquire different foreign QA and accreditation knowledge. E.g., Japan is a member of INQAAHE, APQN, and QAA memberships may influence countries to operate under a similar contract with a common regulatory framework for importing and exporting HEIs as seen in European Union

The term “Quality assurance” lends itself to various interpretations in different countries

Standards have been well defined for internal quality assurance more than for external regulation

Varying degree of similarity in regulating behaviors

Manifestation of principal-agent relationship