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**Abstract**

As the number of students traveling from the Global South to study in the Global North continues to grow (OECD in Education at a glance 2014: highlights. OECD Publishing. Retrieved from [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/education-at-a-glance-2014\\_eag\\_highlights-2014-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/education-at-a-glance-2014_eag_highlights-2014-en), 2014), we argue that it is necessary to broaden our conceptual approaches to the study of this dynamic. This article utilizes the framework of “global imaginaries” to examine the links between intensifying international student recruitment and international students’ experiences with racism. We suggest that both recruitment and racism are framed by a dominant global imaginary rooted in Western supremacy. This imaginary both makes Western higher education a desirable product in the global higher education market and shapes the reception of international students. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Stein, Sharon, E-Mail: [s.stein@alumni.ubc.ca](mailto:s.stein@alumni.ubc.ca)