

04.4.2026

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**Title**

Globalization and educational restructuring : university merging and changing governance in China

**Publication year**

2005

**Source/Footnote**

In: Higher education. - 50 (2005) 1, S. 57 - 88

**Inventory number**

19597

**Keywords**

Ausland : China : Hochschulwesen allgemein ; Ausland : China : einzelne Hochschulen ;  
Globalisierung

**Abstract**

This article sets out in the context of globalization to identify, examine and discuss issues related to structural adjustment and educational restructuring in China, with particular reference to university merging and changes in higher education governance models. While it is basically an historical and documentary analysis of policy change in Chinese higher education, this article focuses on restructuring strategies that the Chinese government has adopted to make its university systems more competitive and efficient in the global market context. University merging in China should not be simply understood as a pure higher education reform but rather a fundamental change in higher education governance model from an 'interventionist state model' to an 'accelerationist state model'. Rather than globalization bringing about the decline of the nation state, this article shows transformations taking place in Chinese universities may not necessarily diminish the capacity of the state but instead make the Chinese government a more activist state in certain aspects. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)