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Harmonious expansion of China's higher education: a new growth pattern

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**Abstract**

How can one country narrow the regional disparity during the tremendous expansion of higher education? This issue remains unexamined and critical analysis is needed to unveil the spatial dynamics behind expansion of higher education. The spatial analysis shows that there is significant strategic interaction among neighboring provinces in China during the expansion of higher education. It implies that the expansion of higher education intensifies spatial interaction among provinces which facilitates narrowing gap of higher education among provinces in China. The convergence analysis shows that the speed of s-convergence is 1.3% and the average speed of  $\beta$ -convergence is 2.1%, which give robust evidences to support the increasing spatial equalization of China's higher education. Meanwhile, local spatial dynamics analysis shows that the catch-up strategy and cluster growth strategies of China are effective to achieve the balanced expansion goal. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Gu, Jiafeng, E-Mail: isssgujf@pku.edu.cn