

30.7.2024

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Title

Chinese Students Syndrome in Australia: colonial modernity and the possibilities of alternative framing / Xianlin Song

Publication year

2020

Source/Footnote

In: Higher education. - 79 (2020) 4, S. 605 - 618

Inventory number

49321

Keywords

Ausland : Australien : Auslandsbeziehungen ; Ausland : Australien : Studenten, Studium, Lehre ; Ausland : China : Auslandsbeziehungen ; Ausland : China : Studenten, Studium, Lehre ; Austausch von Wissenschaftlern und Studenten ; Mobilität

Abstract

There are around 400,000 international students studying on Australian campuses in 2018, and the education of international students is Australia's third largest export, behind that of iron ore and coal, thereby playing a significant role in the country's economy and particularly the financial sustainability of Australian universities. Chinese international students, account for one-third in this cohort, are paradoxically both coveted as 'cash cows' and labelled as a 'security threat' to Australian society. The paper examines this particular 'Chinese Student Syndrome' through the lens of 'colonial modernity' and argues that along with the problems of Chinese firms in Australia, Chinese international students on Australian campuses, in many ways, take on the persona of China itself in Australia, and the implications associated with its global rise. At the core of this syndrome lies a deep-seated ontological framing of a historical teleology that centres the Anglo-European pathway to

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modernity as universal that grounds the epistemic certainty of higher education institutions in Australia and regards Chinese students as the outsider to this teleology. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)