Abstracts of Keynote Speeches

Keynote Speech on *Education futures*

Spatialising Internationalisation: Education for Sustainable Development and Global Competence Cultivation at Tsinghua University

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Purpose – As the global sustainable development agenda advances, universities are transforming from traditional scale expansion models towards connotative development that serves the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This study explores how Tsinghua University's global competence cultivation achieves Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) objectives through the spatialisation of internationalisation processes.

Design/Method – This research adopts spatial theory as an analytical framework, using Tsinghua University's global competence cultivation as an in-depth case study. A theoretical framework of "spatialising internationalisation" is constructed based on Lefebvre's spatial production theory, establishing a ternary analytical model of "spatial practice–spatial representation–representational space" to examine how global competence cultivation reconstructs educational spaces, reorganises relationships, and innovates practices to achieve the organic integration of internationalisation and sustainable development.

Findings – The research reveals four key findings: (1) Global competence cultivation responds to SDG 4.7's mandate of "ensuring all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development" while effectively integrating the dual requirements of SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Global Partnerships) through spatialisation processes; (2) The "Internationalisation at Home" model overcomes traditional geographical constraints of internationalisation by creating localised global learning spaces; (3) Through four-dimensional coordination of conceptual space, institutional space, practical space, and experiential space, effective transformation from educational concepts to spatial practices is achieved; (4) Multi-scale spatial nesting mechanisms provide replicable and scalable pathways for Education for Sustainable Development implementation.

Originality – This study makes a theoretical contribution by systematically explicating the conceptual connotations and operational mechanisms of "spatialising internationalisation", providing a novel spatial analytical perspective for ESD research. Practically, it offers spatial strategic guidance for the sustainable transformation of higher education internationalisation and innovative talent cultivation.

Keywords: Higher Education Internationalisation; Spatialisation; Global Competence; Internationalisation at Home; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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