International Collaboration and the Future of Research Universities

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Abstract

Leading research universities around the world have been internationalizing their educational and research activities for decades. Students at these universities have been seeking more high-quality opportunities to learn about and engage with the world. Faculty members have been finding more opportunities to collaborate with international colleagues. Students from other countries have been enrolling in greater numbers. This has occurred during a period in which national economies have also been globalizing. The same dynamics that have been shaping the development of the global economy have also been central to the internationalization of the universities: growing cross-border economic, social, and cultural connections; greater individual and corporate mobility; increased trade and capital flows; and instantaneous, globe-spanning transmission of information.

Today, however, the ideas, values, and policies that have driven globalization are under greater stress than at any time in the last several decades, even as the benefits of international cooperation in research and education in many fields, including infrastructure sustainability, have continued to grow. In this talk I will explore some of the strategic options available to research universities in the present international environment.