

Contents

1 Introduction	1
1.1 An Introduction to the Book and the Context	2
1.2 Objectives of the Book	5
1.3 Outline of the Book	8
References	9
2 Higher Education Transition and Academic Mobility in China	13
2.1 The Changing Landscape of Global Higher Education	13
2.2 Higher Education Transition in China	15
2.3 Return Academic Mobility in China	20
2.3.1 China's Post-1978 Policies Toward Study Abroad and Return Mobility	20
2.3.2 Studies of China's Academic Returnees	27
References	29
3 Theorizing Academic Mobility	33
3.1 Debates on Brain Drain, Gain, and Circulation	33
3.2 An Alternative Approach to Academic Mobility	35
3.3 Conceptualizing Academic Mobility	38
References	40
4 Return Mobility, Motivations, and Driving Factors: Negotiating the Process of Return	43
4.1 Policy Matters: The Role of the State and Institutions in Return Mobility	44
4.1.1 The Role of State Policies	44
4.1.2 The Role of Institutional Policies	47
4.1.3 Comments on Talent Policies	50

4.2	Rational Calculations: Improved Research Conditions and Career Maneuvers	51
4.2.1	Established Scholars	51
4.2.2	Recent PhD Returnees	53
4.2.3	Postdoctoral Fellows	54
4.3	A Nostalgic Feeling Toward Home: Cultural Belonging and Family Responsibility	56
4.3.1	Cultural Belonging	56
4.3.2	Family Reasons	58
4.4	Conclusion	61
	References	63
5	Reintegration, Challenges, and Structural Constraints:	
	A Reflection on China's Academic System	65
5.1	Institutional Constraints	66
5.1.1	Bureaucratic and Hierarchical Governance Structures	66
5.1.2	Local Politics and the Absence of an Invisible College	70
5.2	Critique of China's Academic System	74
5.2.1	A Hectic and Materialistic Mentality	75
5.2.2	Quantity, Quality, and Assessment	76
5.2.3	The Funding System and Academic Corruption	78
5.3	World-Class Universities? Returnees' Comparative Perspectives	81
5.4	Conclusion	85
	References	87
6	Learning, Knowledge Transfer, and Institutional Innovation:	
	The Impact of Academic Mobility	89
6.1	Learning and Knowledge Transfer Experiences Abroad	90
6.1.1	Academic Training	90
6.1.2	Personal Growth and Cultural Gains	92
6.2	Experiences of Knowledge Transfer Upon Return	95
6.2.1	The Ways of Teaching.	96
6.2.2	Publications and Transnational Collaboration	100
6.2.3	Promoting Internationalization and Institutional Building.	102
6.3	The Consequence of Mobility on Institutional Innovation	105
6.4	Conclusion	109
	References	109
7	Concluding Reflections.	113
7.1	Globalization and the Changing Academic Profession	113
7.2	Internal Differentiations	115

Contents	xi
7.3 Professional Remaking	118
7.4 Implication and Further Studies	120
References	121
Appendix A: Methodology and Methods	123
Appendix B: Characteristics of the Qualitative Sample	141

Globalization and Transnational Academic Mobility

The Experiences Of Chinese Academic Returnees

Chen, Q.

2017, XV, 143 p. 2 illus., 1 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-981-287-884-7