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Managerialism, Academic Globalism and the Shaping of Sociology: Comparison of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore

The penetration of managerialism and academic globalism into higher education is felt in many Asian countries, particularly how it does with the pursuit of scholarly 'international excellence' in the name of 'inevitable global competition.' Less known is their actual impacts on the intellectual life and scholarly knowledge production in the local academia. This paper focuses on sociology- a discipline marked by the tension between its pursuit of universally-valid principles and the concerns of locally-relevant (sometimes intervention-oriented) knowledge. Based primarily on interviews findings with sociologist in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore, I shall provide a critical assessment how their professional practices were being driven by the perceived changes in the academic environment. Special attention will be paid to their implication on the geography of knowledge flow and the sociologists' relations with the local public.