

Curriculum Vita

Nian Cai LIU

Professor and Director

Center for World-Class Universities

Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU)

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph.D. (Polymer Science and Engineering), Queen's University at Kingston, Canada, 1992

M.Sc. (Polymer Science and Engineering), Queen's University at Kingston, Canada, 1989

B.Sc. (Chemistry), Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China, 1985

WORKING EXPERIENCE

2005.5-present, Professor and Director, Center for World-Class Universities, SJTU

2007.12-present, Professor and Dean, Graduate School of Education, SJTU

2020.10-2025.1, Professor and Dean, School of Education, SJTU

2008.12-2009.2, Visiting Professor, Hiroshima University, Japan

2000.3-2007.12, Professor and Director, Office of Strategic Planning, SJTU

2006.1-2006.2, Visiting Professor, University Paris-Sud, France

2002.5-2003.5, Professor and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, SJTU

1999-2000, Professor and Deputy Director, Office of Strategic Planning, SJTU

1997-1998, Professor and Vice Dean, School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, SJTU

1995-1996, Associate Professor and Deputy Director, Polymeric Materials Institute, SJTU

1993-1994, Associate Professor, Polymeric Materials Institute, SJTU

1985-1987, Teacher, Department of Materials Science, Lanzhou University

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- World-class universities and academic ranking
- Education evaluation and school excellence
- Internationalization of education and global common good(s)

TEACHING AND SUPERVISING

Graduate Courses Being Taught

Advanced Topics on World-Class Universities

Doctoral Students Being Supervised

Y.Z. Zhang (2022-), Y.J. Li (2023-), J.X. Ding (2024-)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Selected Books in English

N.C. Liu, Z.L. Feng, and Q. Wang, eds. (2024). *“Education in China and the World: Achievements and Contemporary Issues”*. Singapore: Springer (Open access).

N.C. Liu, Y. Wu, and Q. Wang, eds. (2021). *“World-Class Universities: Global Trends and Institutional Models”*. Leiden and Boston: Brill/Sense Publisher.

M. van der Wende, W.C. Kirby, N.C. Liu, and S. Marginson, eds. (2020). *“China and Europe on the New Silk Road: Connecting Universities Across Eurasia”*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Y. Wu, Q. Wang and N.C. Liu, eds. (2019). *“World-Class Universities: Towards a Global Common Good and Seeking National and Institutional Contributions”*. Leiden and Boston: Brill/Sense Publisher.

N.C. Liu, Y. Cheng and Q. Wang, eds. (2016). *“Matching Visibility and Performance: A Standing Challenge for World-Class Universities”*. Rotterdam: Sense Publisher.

Y. Cheng, Q. Wang and N.C. Liu, eds. (2014). *“How World-Class Universities Affect Global Higher Education: Influences and Responses”*. Rotterdam: Sense Publisher.

Q. Wang, Y. Cheng and N.C. Liu, eds. (2013). *“Building World-Class Universities: Different Approaches to a Shared Goal”*. Rotterdam: Sense Publisher.

N.C. Liu, Q. Wang and Y. Cheng, eds. (2011). *“Paths to a World-Class University: Lessons from Practices and Experiences”*. Rotterdam: Sense Publisher.

J. Sadlak and N.C. Liu, eds. (2009). *“The World-Class University as Part of a New Higher Education Paradigm: From Institutional Quality to Systematic Excellence”*. Bucharest: UNESCO-CEPES.

J. Sadlak and N.C. Liu, eds. (2007). *“World-Class University and Ranking: Aiming Beyond Status”*. Bucharest: UNESCO-CEPES.

Selected Book Chapters in English

L. Tian and N.C. Liu. (2022). “World-Class Universities and Global Common Good”, invited chapter in S. Marginson and X. Xu, Eds., “*Changing Higher Education in East Asia*”. London: Bloomsbury.

L. Tian and N.C. Liu. (2021). “Globalizing as World-Class Universities’ Special Function or Unique Mission”, invited chapter in N.C. Liu, Y. Wu, and Q. Wang, eds., “*World-Class Universities: Global Trends and Institutional Models*”. Leiden and Boston: Brill/Sense Publisher.

T.L. Yang and N.C. Liu. (2018). “Rankings and Their Impact on Chinese Higher Education”, invited chapter in E. Hazelkorn, H. Coates and A.C. McCormick, eds., “*Research Handbook on Quality, Performance and Accountability in Higher Education*”. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Y. Wu and N.C. Liu. (2017). “Academic Ranking of World Universities: Methodologies and Trends”, invited chapter in Francisco J. Cantu-Ortiz, ed., “*Research Analytics: Boosting University Productivity and Competitiveness through Scientometrics*”. Boca Raton: CRC Press.

N.C. Liu. (2016). “Academic Ranking of World Universities and the Performance of East Asian Universities”, invited chapter in RIHE International Seminar Reports (24). Hagashi-Hiroshima: Research Institute for Higher Education, Hiroshima University.

Q.H. Wang, Q. Wang and N.C. Liu. (2011). “Building World-Class University in China: Shanghai Jiao Tong University”, invited chapter in P. Altbach and J. Salmi, eds., “*The Road to Academic Excellence*”. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.

N.C. Liu and Y. Cheng. (2010). “Global University Rankings and Their Impact”, invited chapter in P. Altbach, ed., “*Leadership for World-Class Universities: Challenges for Developing Countries*”. New York and London: Routledge.

N.C. Liu. (2007). “Flagship Universities of China: Differentiation, Classification and World-Class”, invited chapter in P. Altbach and J. Balan, eds., “*World-Class Worldwide: Transforming Research Universities in Asia and Latin America*”. Baltimore and London: John Hopkins University Press.

Selected Articles in English

L. Tian, Z.L. Feng and N.C. Liu (2025). “Measuring Global Common Goods in Higher Education: Dimensions and Potential Indicators”. *Higher Education*, **89(1)**, 83-98.

Q. Wang and N.C. Liu (2023). “Higher Education Research Institutes in Chinese

Universities”. *RIHE International Seminar Reports*, **26**, 41-66.

L. Tian and N.C. Liu (2021). Inward International Students in China and Their Contributions to Global Common Goods. *Higher Education*, **81(2)**, 197-217, 219.

F. Jiang and N.C. Liu (2020). “New Wine in Old Bottles? Examining Institutional Hierarchy in Laureate Mobility Networks, 1900-2017”. *Scientometrics*, **125(2)**, 1291-1304.

L. Tian and N.C. Liu (2019). “Rethinking Higher Education in China as a Common Good”. *Higher Education*, **77(4)**, 623-640.

F. Jiang and N.C. Liu (2018). “The Hierarchical Status of International Academic Awards in Social Sciences”. *Scientometrics*, **117(3)**, 2091-2115.

J.T. Zheng and N.C. Liu (2015). “Mapping of Important International Academic Awards”. *Scientometrics*, **104(3)**, 763–791.

Z. Zhang, Y. Cheng and N.C. Liu (2014). “Comparison of the Effect of Mean-Based Method and z-score for Field Normalization of Citations at the Level of Web of Science Subject Categories”. *Scientometrics*, **101(3)**, 1679-1693.

N.C. Liu and Q. Wang (2011). “Building World-Class Universities in China: A Dream Come True?” *Chinese Education & Society*, **44(5)**, 3-8.

Q.Q. Deng, Q. Wang and N.C. Liu (2010). “National Initiatives for Building World-Class Universities: Comparison between Asian and European Experiences”. *Higher Education Forum*, **7**, 35-51.

N.C. Liu. (2009). “The Story of the Academic Ranking of World Universities”. *International Higher Education*, **(54)**, 2-3.

Y. Cheng and N.C. Liu. (2008). “Examining Major Rankings According to the Berlin Principles”. *Higher Education in Europe*, **33(2/3)**, 201-208.

Y. Cheng and N.C. Liu. (2007). “Academic Ranking of World Universities by Broad Subject Fields”. *Higher Education in Europe*, **32(1)**, 17-30.

Y. Cheng and N.C. Liu. (2006). “A First Approach to the Classification of Top 500 World Universities by Their Disciplinary Characteristics Using Scientometrics”. *Scientometrics*, **68(1)**, 135-150.

N.C. Liu and Y. Cheng. (2005). “The Academic Ranking of World Universities”. *Higher Education in Europe*, **30(2)**, 127-136.

SELECTED RESEARCH GRANTS

Principal Investigator, “Performance evaluation of and promoting mechanism for the excellence of graduate education”, 280,000 RMB, from Ministry of Education of China,

January 2024 - December 2025.

Principal Investigator, “Performance evaluation of and promoting mechanism for the Double World-Class Project”, 800,000 RMB, from Ministry of Education of China, December 2018 - June 2022.

Co-Investigator, “The Centre for Global Higher Education”, 40,000 GBP, part of a major ESRC/HEFCE grant led by UCL Institute of Education, November 2015 - November 2020.

Principal Investigator, “Building world-class universities and the Chinese dream”, 1,000,000 RMB, from Ministry of Education of China, January 2016 - December 2017.

Principal Investigator, “Evaluation of world-class universities and world-class subjects”, 200,000 RMB, from National Association of Graduate Education of China, July 2015 - March 2017.

Principal Investigator, “The impact and uses of university rankings”, 120,000 RMB, from National Social Science Foundation of China, December 2012 - December 2016.

Principal Investigator, “Assessment of selected 985 Projects of Shanghai Jiao Tong University”, 1,000,000 RMB, from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, January 2011 - December 2014.

Principal Investigator, “University innovation and the future of China”, 1,500,000 RMB, from Ministry of Education of China, March 2010 - December 2011.

Principal Investigator, “Assessment of academic disciplines in research universities”, 200,000 RMB, from National Science Foundation of China, January 2007- December 2009.

Principal Investigator, “Indicators, weights and impact of university rankings”, 70,000 RMB, from National Social Science Foundation of China, January 2007 - December 2009.