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The Academic Profession in Japan and Germany

Japan and Germany were included as country cases in the two major international comparative analyses of the academic profession. The respective questionnaire surveys were undertaken in 1992 and 2007. The country surveys were coordinated by Akira Arimoto (Hiroshima) and Ulrich Teichler (Kassel). Comparison turned out to be difficult, because less than 20% of scholars employed at Japanese research-oriented universities, but more than 80% at German universities are on junior or intermediate-level positions. Moreover, the tasks and working conditions of scholars differ more substantially in Germany between universities and Fachhochschulen than in Japan between doctoral-granting and other universities. University professors in both countries are, as a rule, “research-driven”, work long hours, are highly “productive” and are quite satisfied with their professional situation. German professors are more internationally embedded in their academic work than their Japanese colleagues. The changes of governance and management around 2000 in both countries did not so much lead German professors, but strongly Japanese professors to believe that they have lost influence on key academic decisions.

CV

Professor at the International Centre for Higher Education Research (INCHER-Kassel), University of Kassel, from 1978 to 2013, and former director of the Centre for 16 years. Vice-president of the University of Kassel from 1980 to 1982. Born in 1942; diploma at the Free University of Berlin and doctoral dissertation (Dr. phil.) at the University of Bremen, both in sociology; 1968-1978 researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Educational Research, Berlin. Extended research periods in Japan, the Netherlands, and the U.S; part-time or visiting professorships or other teaching arrangements in nine countries, among others at Nagoya University and Hiroshima University. Research on higher education and the world of work, higher education systems, the academic profession, and international mobility and cooperation; coordinator of various international research consortia. More than 1,300 publications; more than 1,000 visits to more than 80 countries for teaching, research collaboration, conferences and consultancy. Member of the International Academy of Education (IAE) and the Academia Europaea (AE), former chairman of the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers (CHER), former president and distinguished member of EAIR, vice-president and fellow of SRHE, honourable member of the Gesellschaft für Hochschulforschung (GfHf); Comenius Prize of UNESCO; Dr. h. c. of the University of Turku (Finland).