

# **Towards a more comprehensive and responsible research evaluation in China**

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# New research assessment reform in China: two documents in 2020



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- **Farewell to “SCI worship”.**

Indicators based on Science Citation index (SCI) will not be applied directly in evaluation and funding at any level.

- **From metrics to peer review.**

A new focus on research quality and societal relevance will replace the “paper only” orientation. “High-quality” representative work will be peer-reviewed at all levels of evaluation.



- **New priority to local relevance.**

High-quality publications in Chinese journals will be encouraged, and the development of good domestic journals will be supported. In principle, no less than 1/3 of representative publications should be published in domestic journals.



## Examples of following-up implementations

### National Disciplinary Evaluation 2020

- Completely new evaluation system which fully implements the new policies



### Ministry of Education

- Stop promoting or recruiting on the basis of papers or citations.
- Institutions which provide publishing bonuses must be punished.



### National Natural Science Foundation of China

Applicants for Distinguished Young Scientists are no longer required to list their indexed publications with citation scores.



### Universities

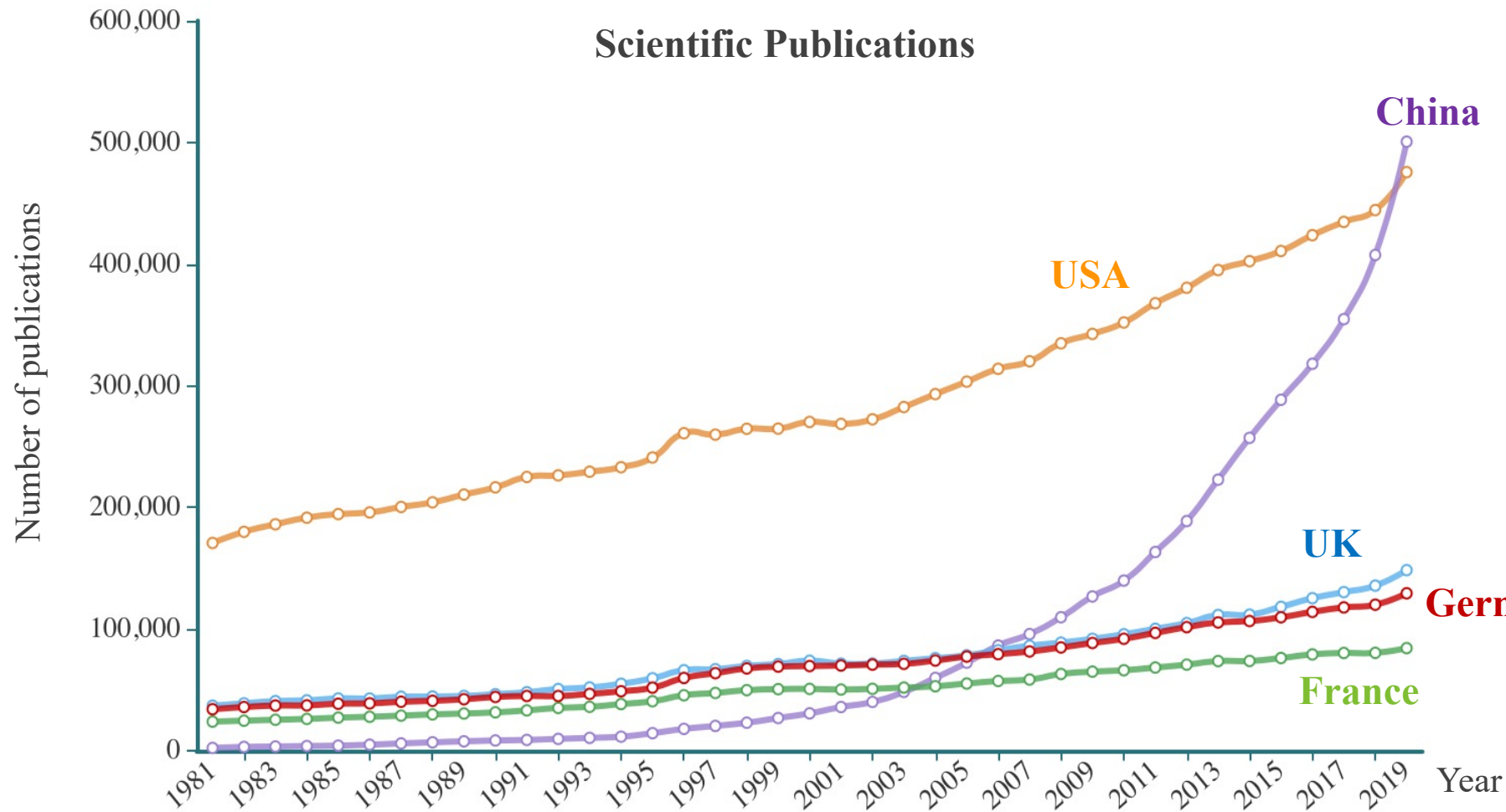
- Journal publications will not be basic requirement of applying for a PhD and graduates' degree.



# Why the new research assessment policy?



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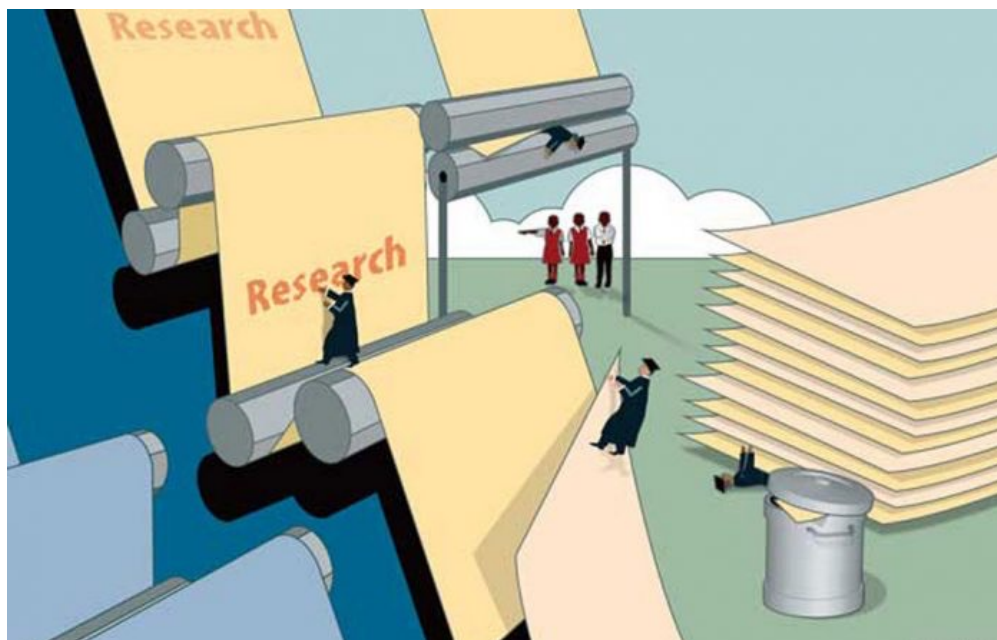


WoS indexed publications had significant weights in staff employment, promotion, funding, and evaluations on individual and aggregate levels.

# Why the new research assessment policy?



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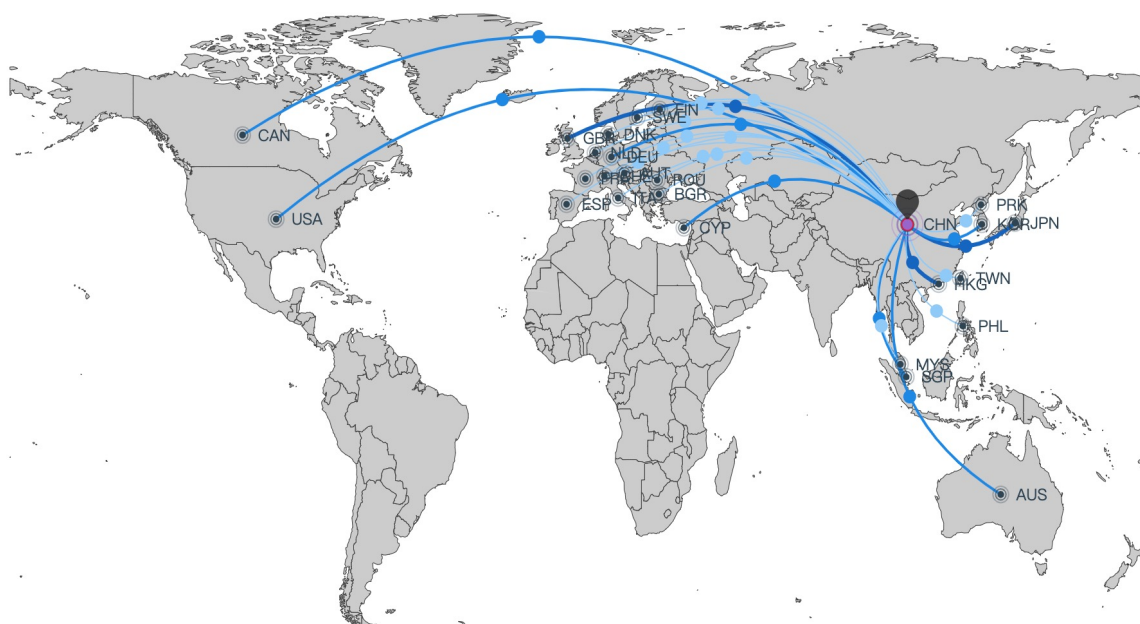
Goal displacement?



# What are the possible influences on China's international collaboration?

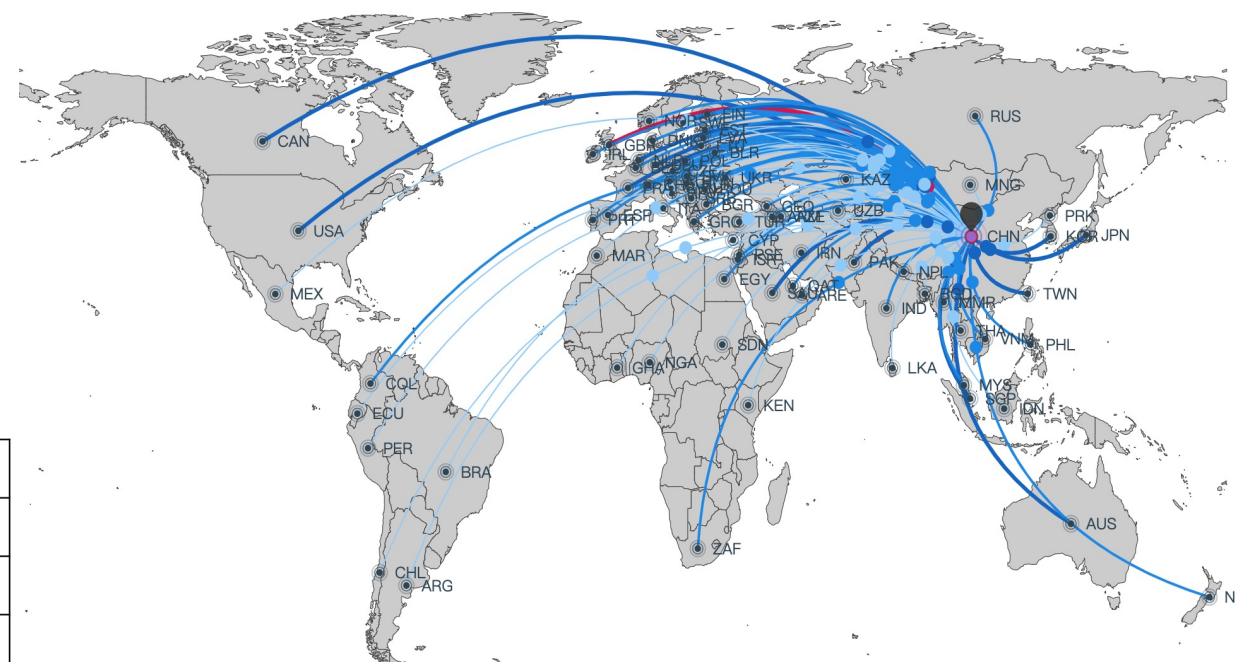


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1995-1999

$r_{ij} \geq 0.1$ Thickness:4
$0.02 \leq r_{ij} < 0.1$ Thickness:3
$0.01 \leq r_{ij} < 0.02$ Thickness:2
$0.005 \leq r_{ij} < 0.01$ Thickness:1
$r_{ij} < 0.005$ Without line

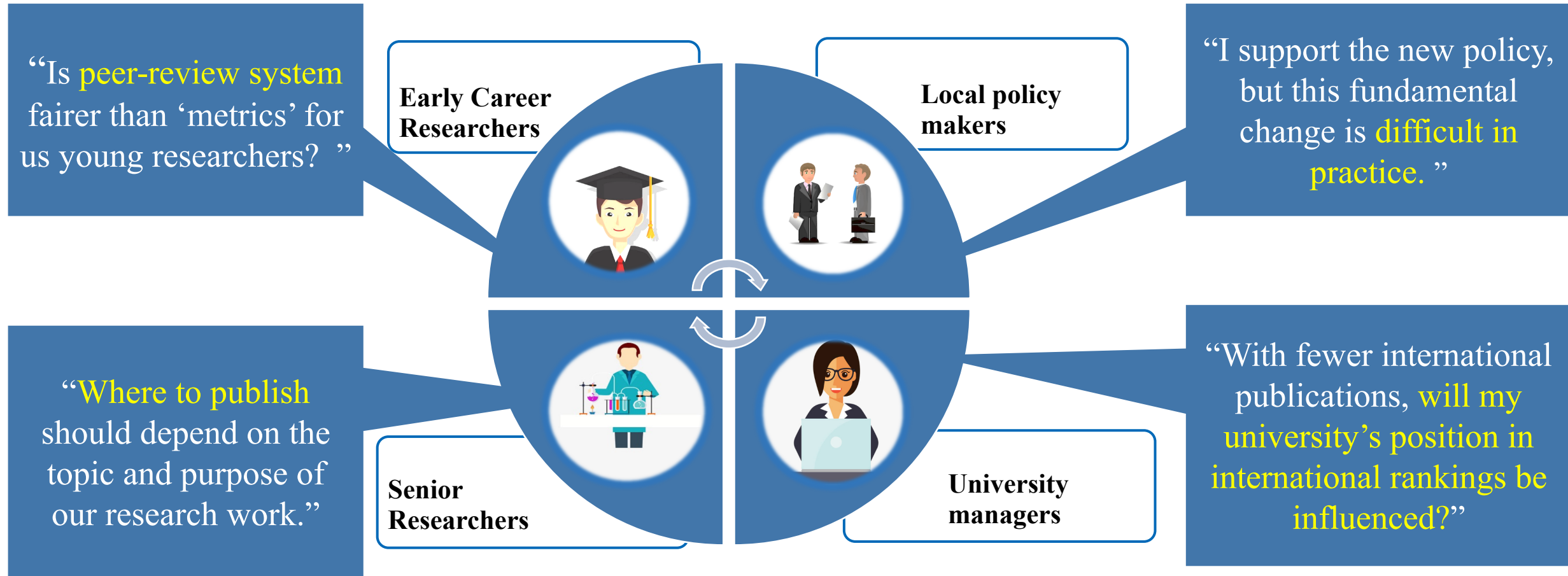


2015-2019

# How responsibility should be included in implementing the new policy?



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# How responsibility should be included in implementing the new policy?



## Local relevance

- Integration
- Retention
- Disclosure

- Differences in fields, topics and types of researches
- Differences in development stages of globalization process
- Differences in strengths and career stages of individual researchers
- Differences in individuals and aggregates

Diversity and balance

## Global quality

- Diffusion
- Exploration
- Impact



**How responsibility should be included in implementing the new policy?**



1. The biggest challenge is not policy change, but it is behavior change and culture change.  
For example, is peer-review system 'fairer' than metrics, in particular for young researchers?
2. How do we take good care of diversity and balance in research ecosystem?
3. What new research assessment infrastructures are needed to support the research policy reforms?
4. Local relevance is important, but how do we document and value local relevance in evaluation practice?

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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