



THE SEATTLE DECLARATION

SEPTEMBER 2005

We, the *Forces and Forms* network, in order to increase the world's capacity for solving global problems and meeting human needs, declare our commitment to understanding the role of doctoral education in globalization. This declaration is a call to reflect upon the forces shaping doctoral education worldwide and a call to act upon the forms of doctoral education worldwide. It defines a framework for shaping doctoral education to meet the needs of the 21st century and for creating the conditions to educate doctoral-level researchers as world citizens.

We acknowledge that doctoral education is a resource for economic competition between nations and that the current distribution of intellectual capital tends to magnify global inequality.

We believe that doctoral education should be a resource for social cooperation and the mitigation of inequality.

We are committed to understanding what forms of doctoral education are needed to produce socially relevant knowledge, promote international cooperation, and bring to fruition diverse ways of knowing.

Many factors motivate the need for a global understanding of doctoral education. These include growing interest in doctoral education as a source of innovation and competitive advantage in the global economy; expansion of doctoral education in small countries and developing nations; increasing diversification of international students' destinations for doctoral study; internationalization of the labor market and global competition for PhD scientists and researchers; and increasing awareness of life-threatening problems, such as global warming and nuclear proliferation, that can only be confronted with international cooperation.

In light of these trends, as doctoral education researchers, policy makers, funders, and administrators, we believe we can promote the improvement of doctoral education worldwide through the following activities:

- Participating actively in international collaborations;
- Forging global networks to examine patterns of change in doctoral education;
- Defining an agenda for international research on innovations in doctoral education;
- Sharing research findings and best practices;
- Studying the role of doctoral education in globalization;

- Developing strategies for preserving native cultures and reducing the "brain drain" while also strengthening local connections to international science and scholarship;





- Striving for international consensus on what doctoral education is and the competencies a PhD degree should confer;
- Creating, sharing, and applying internationally meaningful comparative data on doctoral education;
- Evaluating doctoral education across national boundaries;
- Identifying policies that promote excellence in doctoral education and simultaneously foster diversity.

This *Seattle Declaration* is one result of a comprehensive effort to assess doctoral education as a critical force in responding to and shaping trends in globalization. Initiated by the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education at the University of Washington, Seattle, three *Forces and Forms of Change in Doctoral Education Worldwide* workshops will take place. For doctoral education experts these meetings will provide the basis for understanding how, and how well, graduate education is responding to global trends. For the first conference, in 2005, more than 30 doctoral education experts from 6 continents and 14 countries convened at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. This first conference was a milestone for sharing information widely, shaping new research on global trends, and promoting innovations in doctoral education worldwide.

This workshop was organized by the Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education (CIRGE) with funding from NSF, the Ford Foundation, and the University of Washington's Graduate School and College of Education.





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