



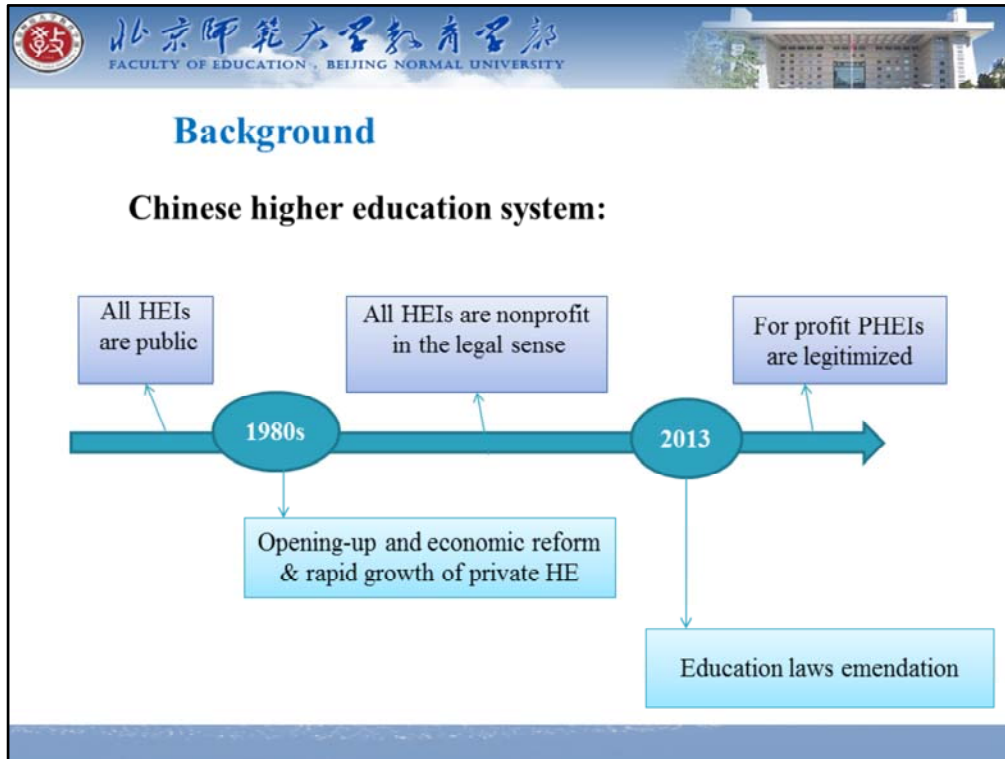
北京師範大學

For profit higher education  
as a fledging sector in China:  
An analysis of national policies and local  
and provincial variations

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Qian Li is a doctoral candidate in Beijing Normal University and also a PROPHE member. Her topic is “For profit higher education as a fledging sector in China: An analysis of national policies and local and provincial variations”.



The economic reform in China in 1980s made private higher education revive and grow. Private higher education institutions might be in operation pursuing profits, but for-profit higher education was forbidden in the laws. In 2013, Chinese government amended national education laws and for profit university began to have its formal role in Chinese legal system.




## National Policies


1. Separate legal frameworks for nonprofit and for profit PHEIs. (2010, 2013)
2. Pilot projects in local areas. (2013)- *[4 red spots in the map]*
3. Supporting regulations and policies (for example, educational land policies, grants, taxes, etc.) *are to be developed.* (2015)



National policies had made it clear that China will set up separated legal frameworks for nonprofit and for-profit private higher education institution. And pilot reform projects have been launched in local areas that were shown as red spots in the map below. In the beginning of this year, Chinese national government has proposed to develop supporting regulations and policies, including education land policies, grants, taxes, student insurance, teachers' tenure, etc, to give differentiated supports to nonprofit and for profit higher education.



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## How Local governments respond?

Research methods:  
--Text analysis of 20 provincial regulations and 4 pilot projects

preliminary findings:  
-- three types of local varieties:

- ❑ **Policy innovation:** in regions with highly developed system of PHE;
- ❑ **Policy copy:** simply declare that local polices will be in harmony with national policies and present no specific regulations;
- ❑ **Policy escape:** purposely stray from the guidance of the central government or haven't respond to the national reform.


To study how local government responded to the national reform, text analysis of local regulations and policies has been done. The research has not been finished, but 3 types of local reactions have been identified.

(a) Policy innovation. Central government's policies were vigorously carried out and further developed in some regions such as Wenzhou, Shenzhen and Shanghai.

These regions always have highly developed system of private higher education.

(b) Policy copy. Some of them simply declare that local polices will be in harmony with national policies and present no specific regulations, while some of them learn from other local governments' regulations.

(c) Policy escape. Some local governments purposely stray from the guidance of the central government or take no action to promote the reform.

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## Conclusion

So far, Chinese higher education institutions

<p>In the legal framework and in the policy texts,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Public</li><li>(2) Private nonprofit</li><li>(3) Private for profit</li></ol>	<p>In the realities,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Public</li><li>(2) Private nonprofit</li></ol>
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Because most local governments adopt the “wait-and-see” strategy, and national supporting policies are still not clear, for-profit university is still a proposal in policy texts, not in reality.



Thanks !

Please email me if you have any  
questions and comments.

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