

Fulbright New Century Scholars Program
Higher Education in the 21st Century: Global Challenge and National Response

Group 1: The Academic Profession in the Age of Globalization

Balbachevsky, Elizabeth - Brazil
Colatrella, Carol - US
Gil-Anton, Manuel - Mexico
Mabokela, Reitumetse - US
Smolentseva, Anna - Russia
Stromquist, Nelly - US (Team Leader)

The collective research project will seek to depict changes in the professoriate due to globalization/internationalization forces that now affect individual faculty and their institutions in different countries. Comparative data from Russia, Denmark, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru will enable to compare ongoing transformations in both industrialized and less industrialized countries. The project will seek to understand how academic professionals are *affected* by these shifts as well how they *respond* to them. Through both quantitative and qualitative methodologies we will assess retrospectively and prospectively opportunities and challenges facing the academic profession.

The primary research objectives will be: to identify external economic, technological, and political forces leading to convergence and differentiation of both public and private higher education institutions across countries; to describe shifts in the academic market and working conditions, including those of female and minority faculty; to analyze emerging forms and roles of governance of faculty participation; and to probe the relationship between academic governance and institutional mission and strategic objectives. On the basis of the comparative study findings, alternative models for institutions and actions for individuals and institutions will be made to improve the contributions of the academic profession toward the relevance of higher education in society.

There will be individual articles focusing on the emphasis set by each of the six research projects. In addition, there will be articles and reports centering on the set of objectives common to all six teams. It is expected that the latter set of reports will become chapters that can be published as part of an edited book on the cross-national nature of the professoriate. At the time of the Cairo meeting (mid-term point), it is expected that background data and information about the current situation for the universities in the selected countries will be presented. At the time of the Paris meeting (final meeting), a comparative analysis on the basis of the first-hand data and policy recommendations will be offered.