

## Relating universities' research performance and cities' cultural capital in global university rankings

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Universities' performance is deeply influenced by the context in which they are located. The nourishment of top universities in big and flourishing cities is not the result of casualty. There is a reciprocal and complex relation by which cities and universities feed from each other. Such relation has been much discussed and analyzed in the scientific literature approaching to it mainly from an economic perspective and the revenues that investment on research may produce (e.g., Collini, 2012). The so-called “triple helix” model suggests a direct relation between universities, industry and government: three actors interacting and influencing each other (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff, 1997). Although the notion of social capital is somehow included in this model, it neglects the influence cities' cultural capital may have on universities (e.g., Hazelkorn, 2011). Such capital has not been studied in the field of bibliometrics where universities' performance is usually considered as the result of research policies and funding. Recent studies on urban planning suggest that the size of cities is related with the emergence of cultural capital (Bettencourt et al., 2010; Bettencourt & West, 2010). Here we hypothesize on a relation between cities and universities, and the role cultural capital may play on such relation. We explore this influence on universities and their relation with their research performance as another actor that may intervene on the development of world-class universities.

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