



SERU-I Newsletter

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 2018

Dear SERU-I Members,

It's been a very busy Fall both for the Consortium and for me personally (see below why). In this newsletter you will learn more about the first gradSERU Symposium in Germany – a major event that brought together global experts on graduate education. We will also give you an update on survey administration and record high response rates at Hiroshima University. Finally, starting from December 10 I will begin my work as a SERU Director and Senior Research Fellow at UC Berkeley's Center for Studies in Higher Education. I move permanently to Bay Area to focus more on the SERU project management, development and research. I am excited by this opportunity and I will bring my skills and passion to contribute to SERU growth, both internationally and in the US.

Sincerely,

Igor Chirikov

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SERU-International Managing Director

HSE University Moscow / CSHE UC Berkeley

SERU-I NEWS



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

A big applause to **Hiroshima University** on boosting the response rates. Its current total response rate so far for the ugSERU is **32%** of the total student population and **43%** partial completes. Way to go!

SPOTLIGHT



First gradSERU Symposium

With funding support from the [Volkswagen Foundation](#), the first [gradSERU Research Symposium](#) was held on October 4-5, 2018 in Hannover, Germany. The Symposium provided a forum to analyze responses from the gradSERU Survey thus far collected, to discuss further development of the survey instrument, the challenges faced by top research universities to improve the graduate experience and to be competitive for talent globally, and recruitment and expansion of the network of gradSERU campuses.

Representatives from top-tier universities in North America, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, China, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Russia participated, most of which are current and prospective SERU Consortium member campuses.

Chaired by SERU Founding PI and CSHE researcher John Aubrey Douglass, the first day focused on the following topics: Perspectives of Doctoral Education in Industry, Global Markets and the Competition for Talent, Tensions between Doctoral Education and Research Training, Reforms and Challenges for Graduate Education. Keynote speeches by Wilhelm Krull, Secretary General VW Stiftung and Jürgen Leohold (Director of the AutoUni) were accompanied by panel sessions that included Marijk van der Wende (Professor of Higher Education Systems, Utrecht University), David Bogle (University College London, LERU Doctoral Education Group), Hongjie Chen (Peking University), Erika Kothe (Uniwind and Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena) on global markets for graduate talent. Other sessions focused on challenges and reform efforts related to graduate education in North America, in Europe, and in Asia and Oceania.

For a full recap of the Symposium, read the [event summary on the CSHE Spotlight](#).



Photo credit: **Saule Bekova**. You can access a few photos from the Symposium [here](#).

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Dr. Igor Chirikov has been appointed as the **Student Experience in the Research University (SERU)** Consortium Director and Senior Research Fellow. His first day at UC Berkeley will be December 10, 2018.

As the new SERU Consortium Director, Dr. Chirikov will be responsible for overall SERU Consortium coordination and development, working in close partnership with the University of Minnesota's SERU North American team and member universities. This will include exploring new approaches to the use of data to assess the student experience and managing SERU's undergraduate (**ugSERU**) and graduate student (**gradSERU**) surveys administration internationally; Minnesota will remain the administrator of SERU Surveys and the liaison with member universities in the US and Canada. Dr. Chirikov will also pursue policy and scholarly research that supports SERU's and CSHE's evolving research agenda.

More information is available [here](#).

We will keep you posted on the planned programs and will send out invitations later in the Spring.
Here is more information on the **ugSERU & gradSERU Survey Designs**.

If you would like to nominate a campus as a potential SERU-I Member please contact
Irina Shcheglova at i.shegl@berkeley.edu.

Do not forget to pass the Newsletter to your colleagues!

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