

Review of: "An experience of global higher education and university autonomy in Viet Nam: A case study of Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Comments on Qeios paper by Hiep Duc and Le Thi Mai

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Having taught at Ton Du Thang myself this paper represents a welcome assessment in English of the many changes Ton Duc Thang and Vietnamese higher education generally are attempting in the years since 2010. After the substantial further work that is needed on this paper, it should be published and promulgated widely in hopes of generating discussion on these important topics. There is a good deal of useful information, provocative quotation, and insightful description in the paper as it stands now.

However, there are serious deficiencies that need to be rectified before the paper can be really published in an academic journal of recognized standing.

1. The English usage needs to be edited and corrected in many cases, both to make the reading smoother and in some cases to make the meaning clear. The authors also need to use British or American English, but not move back and forth in their usage, especially with uses of words like "faculty" and "staff" which have different usages in the two forms of English.
2. The abstract does not clearly match that which the paper presents in its body.
3. The methodology of the research and the drawing of the conclusion is never clearly stated. This is especially true of the provocative quotations where the reader is not told where these quotes came from, how they were picked, what sort of foreign staff or how many different ones were being quoted. I personally do not doubt that these quotes are legitimate, having taught at TDT myself, however they are not useful as research data without being attributed through a methodology description. That does not mean that they can't be anonymous or pseudonymous.
4. There is a need for more analysis in the paper and not just description. The analysis that is needed includes the relative significance of different points that are made in the quotations and this is needed in particular because further discussion

and research in this area needs to be able to build upon papers like this. This is one of the key justifications for applying the tools of social science to the academic environment itself.

The authors need to adopt a point of view clearly and organize the main point of the paper around making their argument. As it is now, the paper is somewhat scattershot.

5. Regarding specific content, students are listed as coming from many places in Europe and Asia, but no mention is made of students that come from Africa or Latin America. The assertion is made that a great many classes are conducted in English including all the classes provided for foreign students. My own experience at TDT indicates that this generalization was not entirely accurate, at least not in the year this paper was written.

Finally, once again, this paper raises a number of very important issues that go to the heart of the content, administration and authority structure and preparation of students in the University system and Ton Duc Thang in particular. For that reason, I strong recommend that revisions be made and the paper be published and promulgated.