

3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference  
Plagiarism across Europe and Beyond 2017  
24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Brno, Czech Republic.

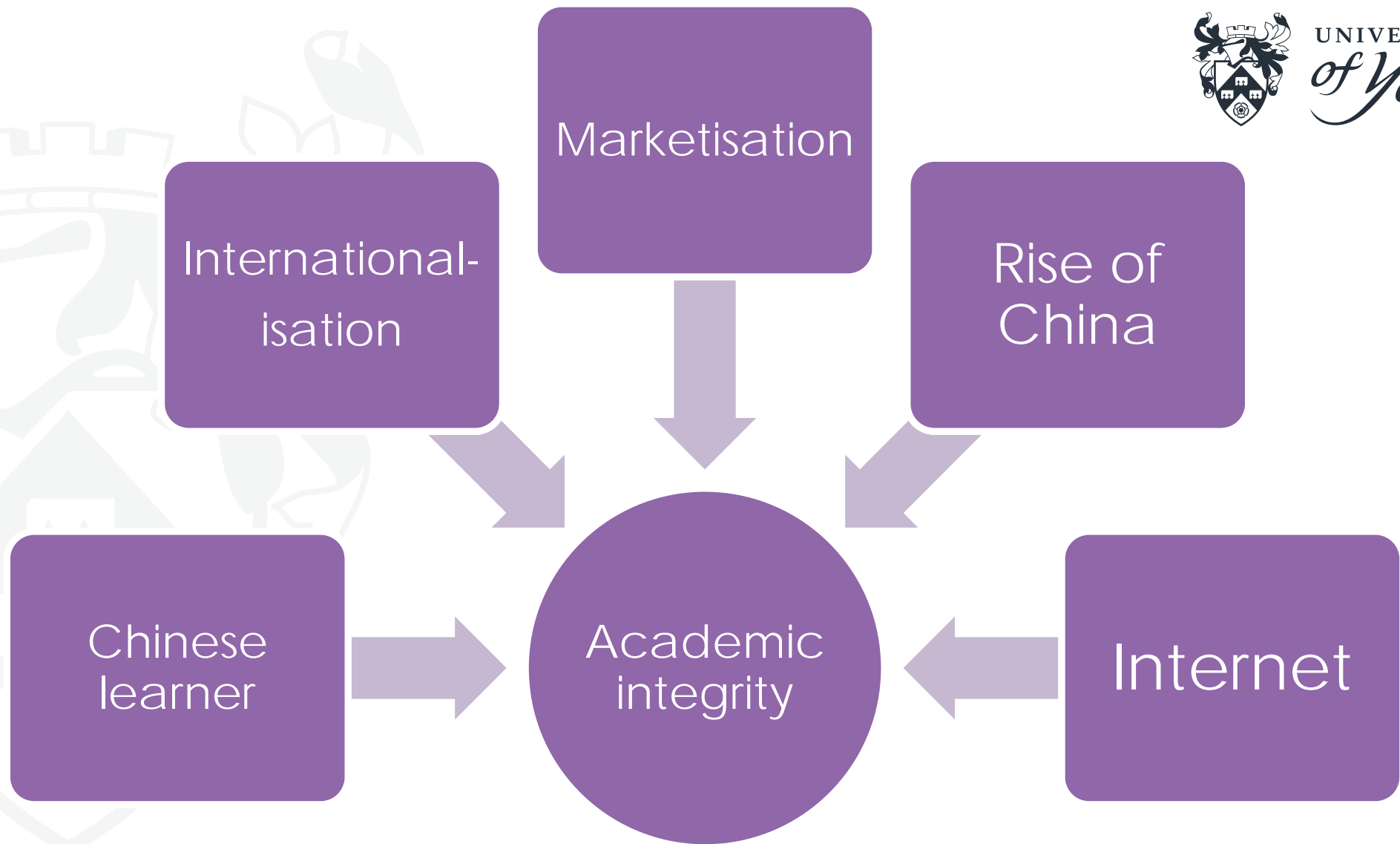


Department of Education

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY THROUGH THE LENS OF CRITICAL THEORY

*Mainland Chinese students' epistemological adaptation to  
studying on UK master's programmes*

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# Focus Group Research



**Mainland Chinese Masters students in the UK**

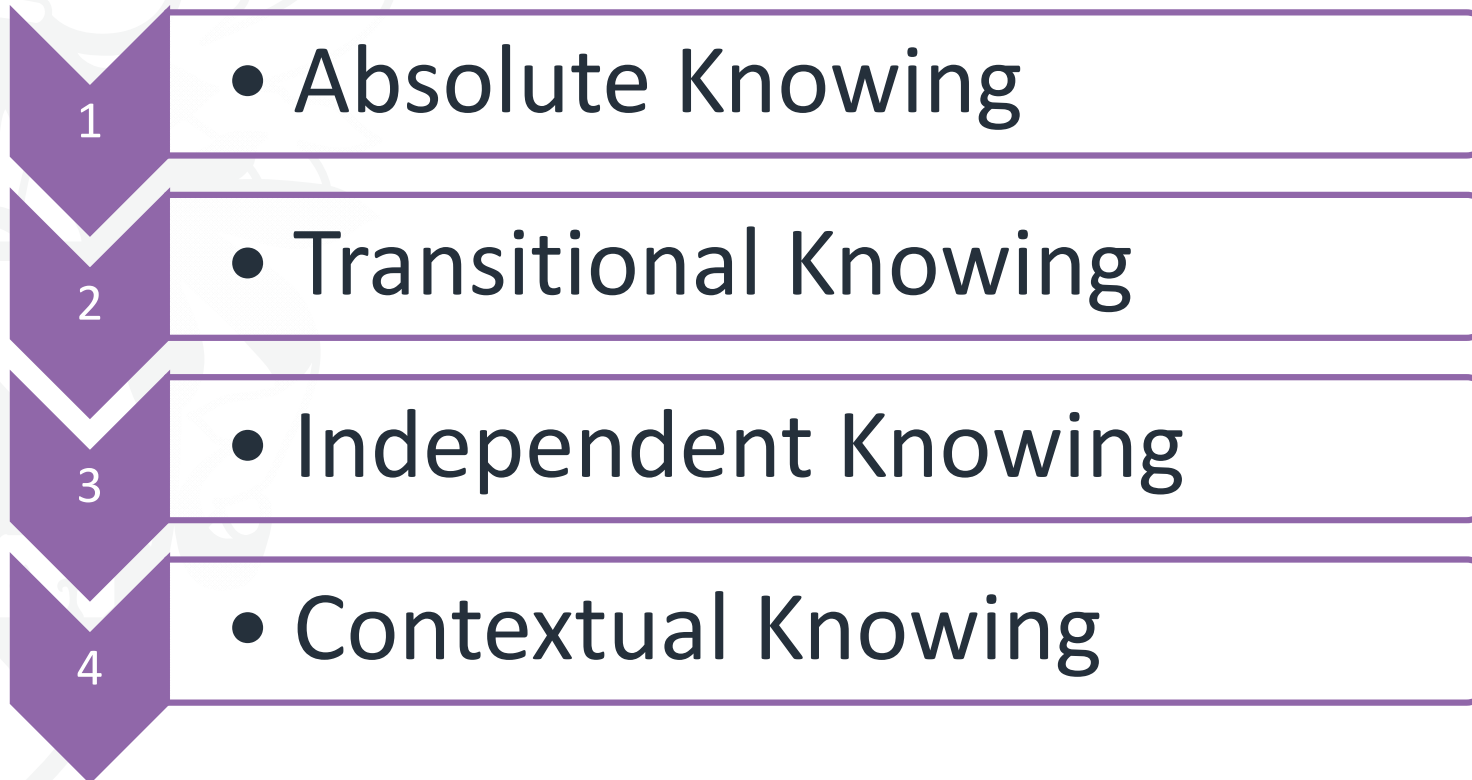
**8 Focus Groups**

**25 participants**

**From general conversation to in-depth  
Various stages of study and after returning to China**

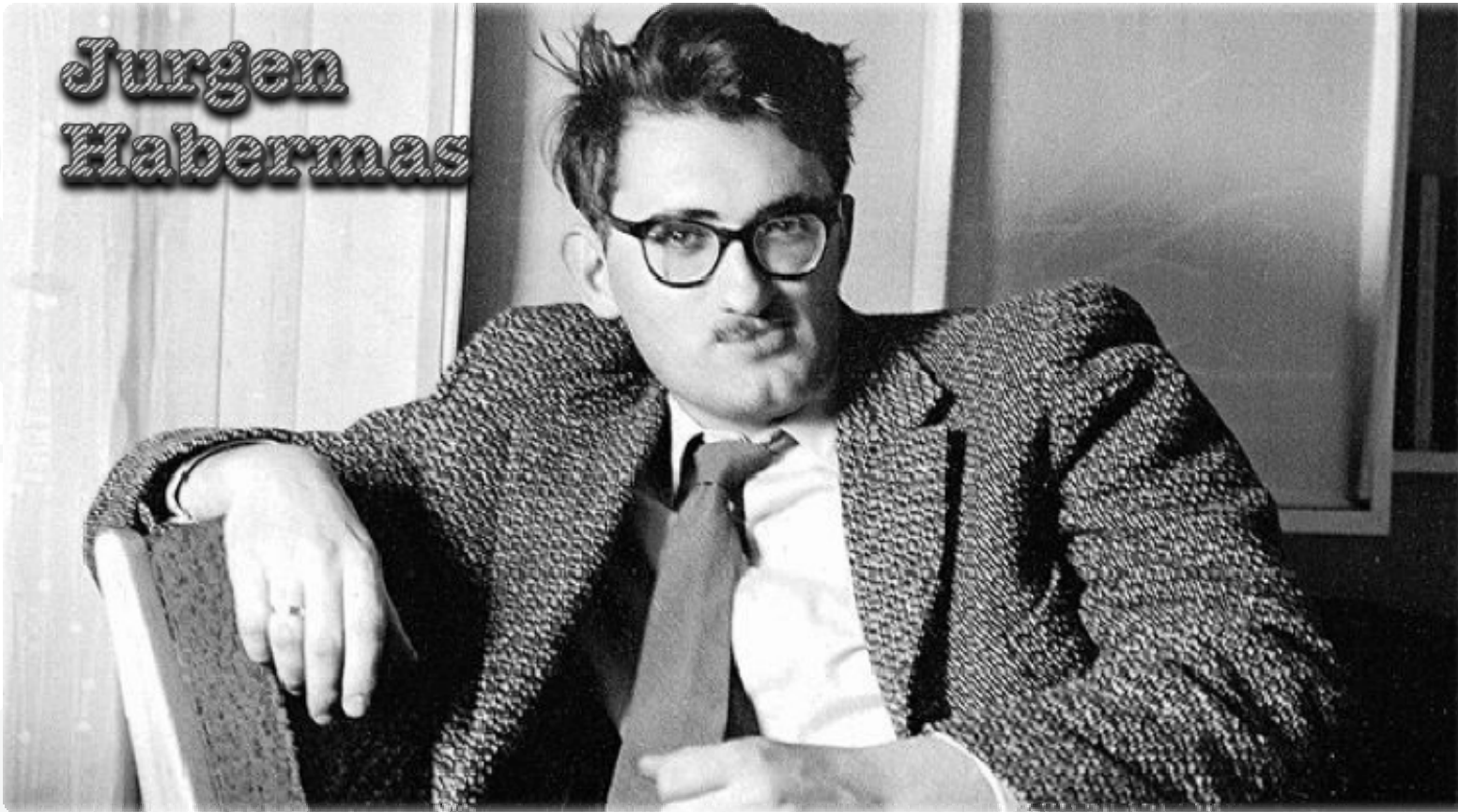
# *Epistemological Reflection Model*

Baxter Magolda (1992)



*From looking to authority to becoming an author(ity)*

Jurgen  
Habermas



Public use of  
reason

How is  
Social order  
possible?

1981: *Theory of Communicative Action (TCA)*

# Communicative Action



*Intersubjective Consensus on Truth*

# Instrumental Action



*Norm-free, impersonal & strategic*

## LIFEWORLD:

Informal place of shared meanings and understandings where people share knowledge, reach understanding, and create social cohesion through reasoned consensus



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*

## SYSTEM:

Money and power – economy and administration  
Aimed at support the efficient reproduction of the lifeworld

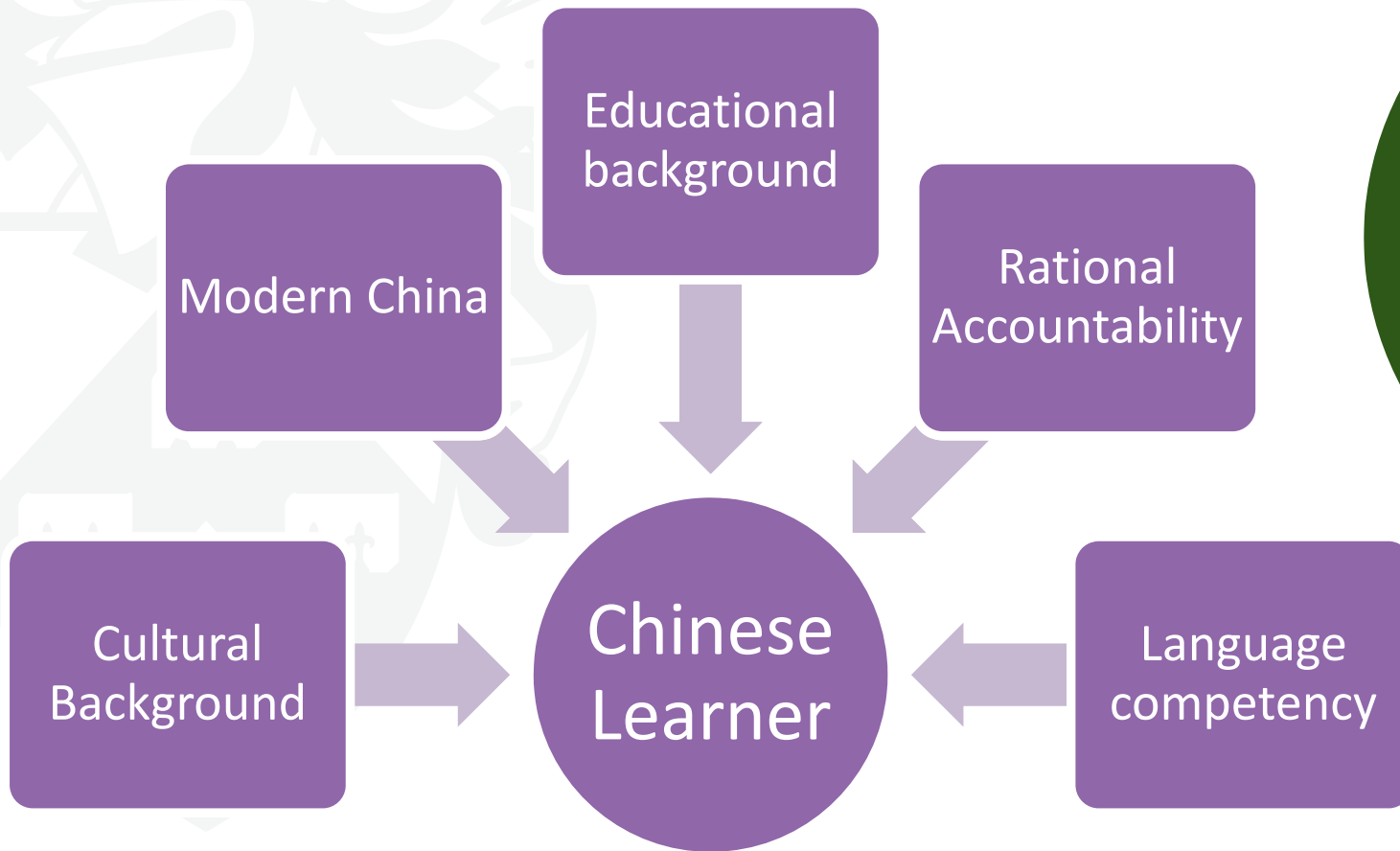
## COLONIZATION:

Fragile equilibrium is disturbed where the system “turn[s] back destructively upon the lifeworld itself” (Habermas, 1981, p. 189)

## SYSTEMATICALLY DISTORTED COMMUNICATION:

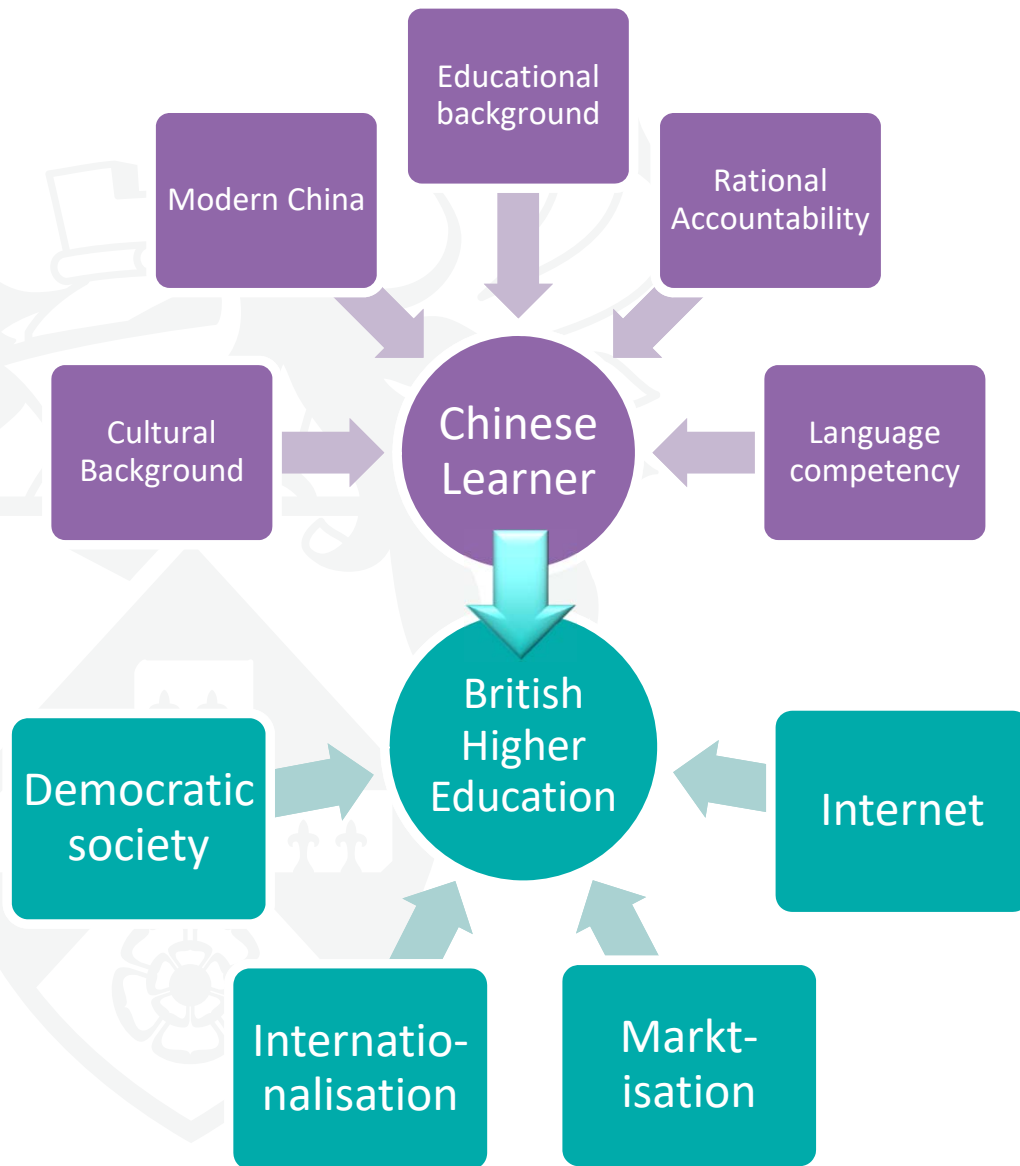
Instrumental education & threats to academic Integrity

# TCA, Chinese Students & Academic Integrity



Colonisation  
of the  
Lifeworld  
&  
Distorted  
communication





Colonisation  
of the  
Academic  
Lifeworld  
Increasingly  
instrumental

# *Intersubjective Consensus on Truth*



- Academic norms – referencing
- Adopting a particular epistemological approach
- Transmission of knowledge through discourse
- Development of higher level thinking skills – rational accountability/critical thinking
- Reflected in the pedagogy

***Plagiarism or lack of critical thinking as a denial of self in the knowledge process***

# Reference List (full list in paper)

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ANY QUESTIONS?