
The theme of European integration in higher education and research explicitly came to the fore in Peter Maassen’s work in the 2000s. However, since the beginning of his research a seminal comparative concern reflected his awareness about the need to go beyond the nation-state as a unit of analysis. Actually, comparative higher education policy is an enduring topic in his academic work focusing on the analysis of trends, issues and diversification of higher education systems. The comparative perspective underlined that the relationship between higher education and the nation-states should be broadened to take into account emerging regulatory patterns and international and supranational coordination efforts. In this sense, his research on governing European higher education systems and institutions was a door way to direct his focus on the role of higher education in the processes of Europeanisation. The path of Peter Maassen’s work on European integration in higher education and research evolved around major themes such as the relationships between the nation-state and higher education systems and the role of university dynamics and of organizational changes in European integration.