

# Has COVID-19 reshaped Chinese transnational research networks in health sciences? An empirical investigation

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The aim of this paper is to study to what extent Covid-19 pandemics modified the global framework of research collaborations in the field of Health Sciences, focusing on the case of China. The origination and spread of Covid-19 epidemics in China has happened in an already turbulent context of international collaborations involving China, already leading to a decrease in international contacts with the other global giants in research and innovation. The subsequent worldwide spread of Covid-19 might have further changed the structure of international research involving China. We aim to answer to these questions: has the Covid-19 outbreak reshaped the transnational research networks in the health field involving China? Did Covid-19 induce more collaboration or more competition between China and the rest of the world - i.e. an opening or a closure of the networks involving Chinese researchers? In order to tackle such research questions, we analyse the international publications included in Web of Knowledge, looking at those research sector in HS which were more active in research on Covid-19 - and for comparison those that were less active - and compare through social network analysis the change in the transnational research networks before and after Covid-19 outbreak.