

Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ | ☒ | The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement |
| ☐ | ☒ | A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly |
| ☐ | ☒ | The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
<i>Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.</i> |
| ☐ | ☒ | A description of all covariates tested |
| ☐ | ☒ | A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons |
| ☐ | ☒ | A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals) |
| ☒ | ☐ | For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F , t , r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
<i>Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.</i> |
| ☒ | ☐ | For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings |
| ☒ | ☐ | For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes |
| ☐ | ☒ | Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's d , Pearson's r), indicating how they were calculated |

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection Scraping: Web Scraper; Archives: Manually collected by the first author

Data analysis Statistics: R version 4.3.2 and R-Studio; Visualisation: Flourish, Dycharts

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

Data analyzed in this study are available in Huang, J., Cao C., and Liu, H., Replication data for "Indigenisation and Inclusion Politics in Chinese Academia", <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/VRREMK>. Harvard Dataverse..

Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

Reporting on sex and gender

N/A. This study does not collect information on sex or gender.

Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings

Please specify the socially constructed or socially relevant categorization variable(s) used in your manuscript and explain why they were used. Please note that such variables should not be used as proxies for other socially constructed/relevant variables (for example, race or ethnicity should not be used as a proxy for socioeconomic status). Provide clear definitions of the relevant terms used, how they were provided (by the participants/respondents, the researchers, or third parties), and the method(s) used to classify people into the different categories (e.g. self-report, census or administrative data, social media data, etc.) Please provide details about how you controlled for confounding variables in your analyses.

Population characteristics

Describe the covariate-relevant population characteristics of the human research participants (e.g. age, genotypic information, past and current diagnosis and treatment categories). If you filled out the behavioural & social sciences study design questions and have nothing to add here, write "See above."

Recruitment

N/A. This research draws on archives, web-scraping, and bibliometrics data

Ethics oversight

N/A. This research draws on archives, web-scraping, and bibliometrics data

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☐ Life sciences

☒ Behavioural & social sciences

☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description

This study focuses on China academy members as an indicator of academic development. The data/approach are mixed-methods (and mainly quantitative)

Research sample

The research sample include all members of China's national academies, with an average age (at the elected year) of 58.66. This study does not collect information on sex or gender.

Sampling strategy

We selected members of the Hanlin Academy, Academia Sinica, Chinese Academy of Science, Chinese Academy of Engineering, and Chinese Academy of Social Science

Data collection

Major data on members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (casad.cas.cn/ysxx2017, accessed on May 11, 2023) and the Chinese Academy of Engineering (cae.cn/cae/html/main/col48/column_48_1.html, accessed on May 12, 2023) were extracted from their official websites with the assistance of the software Web Scraper. Other data, especially those about highest education, affiliation, and foreign member information, were collected manually. Data on members of Academia Sinica (academicians.sinica.edu.tw, accessed on January 1, 2023) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (cass.cn, accessed on January 1, 2023; manual filtering needed) were extracted from their official websites manually. Member information of the Hanlin Academy is the trickiest part, for which both primary sources (including stone tablets, veritable records, and local gazetteers) and secondary literature have been referenced for data collection and cleaning.

Timing

Jan - May, 2023

Data exclusions

N/A. We include all regular and foreign members of China's national academies. Scholars whose memberships of national academies have been canceled are also included with notes.

Non-participation

N/A (This research draws on archives, web-scraping, and bibliometrics data)

Randomization

N/A (This research draws on archives, web-scraping, and bibliometrics data)

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ Antibodies
☒	☐ Eukaryotic cell lines
☒	☐ Palaeontology and archaeology
☒	☐ Animals and other organisms
☒	☐ Clinical data
☒	☐ Dual use research of concern
☒	☐ Plants

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
☒	☐ ChIP-seq
☒	☐ Flow cytometry
☒	☐ MRI-based neuroimaging

Plants

Seed stocks	n/a
Novel plant genotypes	n/a
Authentication	n/a