

The Problem with Innovation: The Case of Neglected Tropical Diseases

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Eu-SPRI Forum Early Career Researcher Conference

Interdisciplinarity in the Study of the Dynamics of Science, Technology and Innovation

2014 INGENIO PhD Days, Valencia, Spain 7 – 8 April

Introduction

- **Research Question:** how does China compare to the donor-recipient model in approaches to NTDs in China
 - China is a 'recipient' country challenging the status quo
 - Historical development of tropical medicine
 - Today focus is repeated in what developed countries can contribute



Structure

□ Introduction

1. Methodology
2. Donor-recipient model
3. China case study
4. A historical involvement in NTDs
5. Innovation actors in national and regional dimension
6. Chinese NTD trends

□ Conclusion

1. Methodology

- Policy historiography
 - scientific journals, organisation material, media/policy reports
- ‘Policy archaeology’ and ‘policy genealogy’
 - 21 semi-structured qualitative interviews with policy actors tackling NTDs

2. Donor-Recipient model



Source: Amaral (2008)



Source: TIME (2010)



3. China Case Study

- World's **largest economy** by 2020 (Standard Chartered, 2010)
- ‘**Indigenous innovation**’ codified through national strategy: ‘2006-2020 Medium- and Long-term National Science and Development Plan’
- Science and innovation connected to efforts to improve **health outcomes** - consumer health market for rising middle classes but signs health of poorer communities will be catered for

4. A historical involvement in NTDs

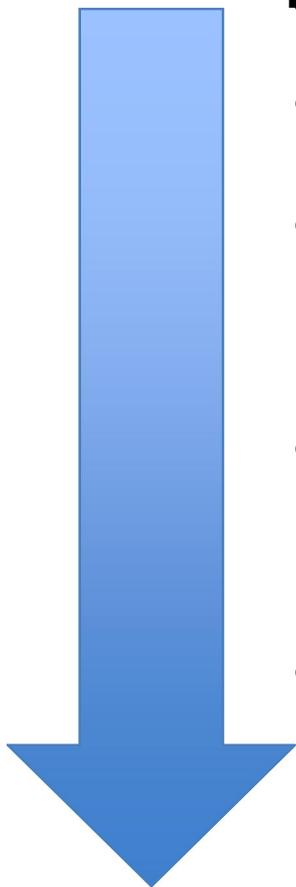
Tropical disease intervention:

1950s Nationwide leprosy programme

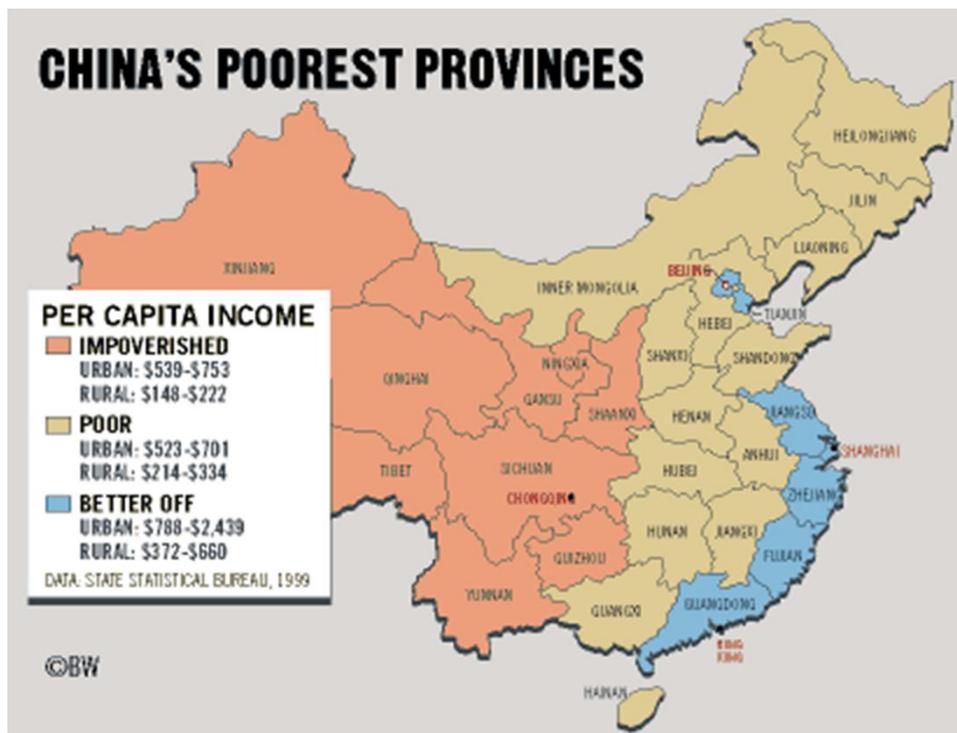
1957 Research published for isolation of elusive trachoma agent

1960s Artemisinin discovered by Chinese scientists

Present Control schemes for Hookworm building upon Hookworm Commission



5. Innovation actors in the national and regional dimension



“All health is local really, it's a bit like politics”
 (Epidemiologist, Interview 6th February 2014)

Source: Roberts (May 8, 2000)

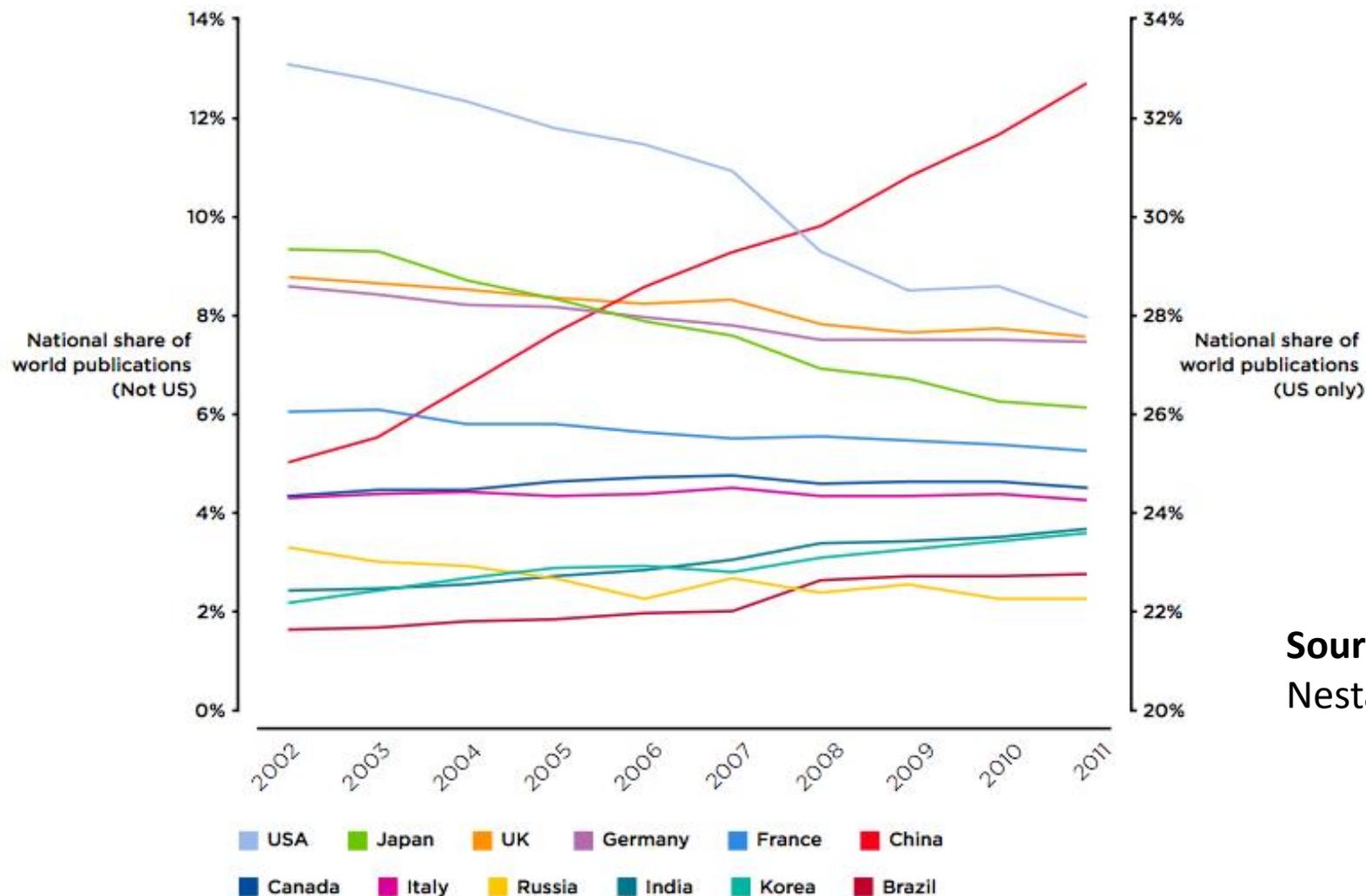
6. Chinese NTD trends

Investment from home-grown companies and MNCs

- Kunming Pharmaceutical Corp (founded in China in 1993, manufactures/sells natural drugs)
- Pharma giants Novartis and Novo Nordisk



Exponential growth of research publications



Conclusion

- Compared **donor-recipient** model with China's approach to NTDs
- Assessed the legacy of **colonial past** imaginings of tropical disease interventions and present day re-imaginings through the **NTD characterisation**

 A **country context** exemplifies how scientific knowledge is not the only consideration but historical and socioeconomic developments form the basis for routes in addressing NTDs

Questions?...