

Inequalities in Knowledge Production and Circulation: A Practitioner's view

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Outline

1. Situating knowledge: positionality, contexts of experience/observation
2. Conventional models of knowledge production and circulation in social sciences
3. Emerging models of collaboration
4. Conclusions: constructing cooperation on an equal footing

Situating Knowledge: Positionality / “Lugar de Fala”

In Brazil

White scholar

Sociologist/ Social Theorist

Based on an elite university in the
Global North



In Germany

Non-German scholar

Latin America expert

Educated in the Global
South

Knowledge circulation practitioner

Situating Knowledge: Contexts of Experience/ Observation



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Conventional Patterns of Knowledge Production and Circulation

- North-South division of labor: theories-methods vs. empirical applications
- Criteria of excellence based on commodified knowledge circuits
- Extractivist knowledge production: non-academic actors/experts as informants/respondents
- Centrality of polymaths (Universalgelehrter)

Conventional Patterns of Knowledge Production and Circulation

Search by name or affiliation		Germany (151)				
World	National	Scholar		D-Index	Citations	Publications
5	1	 Jürgen Habermas Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany		139	219,140	455
44	2	 Till Bärnighausen Heidelberg University, Germany		104	98,201	705
63	3	 Niklas Luhmann Bielefeld University, Germany		98	69,280	379
90	4	 Ulrich Beck Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany		94	115,434	249
103	5	 Martin Heidegger Philipp University of Marburg, Germany		92	80,729	428

Emerging Models of Collaboration

- Joint construction of theories and methods exploring global entanglements
- Criteria of excellence based on academic and social relevance/situatedness
- Collaboration and dialogue between different epistemic communities
- Centrality of interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary networks
- Emerging topics in Germany-Latin American cooperation: indigenous philosophies, critique of anthropocentrism, neo-extractivism, Black feminism.
- Predecessors: networks on dependency theory, theology of liberation, Paulo Freire's work.

Conclusions: constructing cooperation on an equal footing

- Conventional and more symmetrical models of cooperation coexist and compete
- Investments in international/transnational collaborative formats
- Sharing information infrastructures including digital libraries, archives, databases, AI resources, etc.
- Integrating commodified and non-commodified circuits of knowledge
(e.g., ScieLO)