

The background features a stylized world map where the continents are represented by a network of interconnected blue lines and dots, resembling a digital or data network. A white rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the image, containing the text.

First Global South
International
Studies
Conference

robo

FIRST GLOBAL
SOUTH INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES CONFERENCE

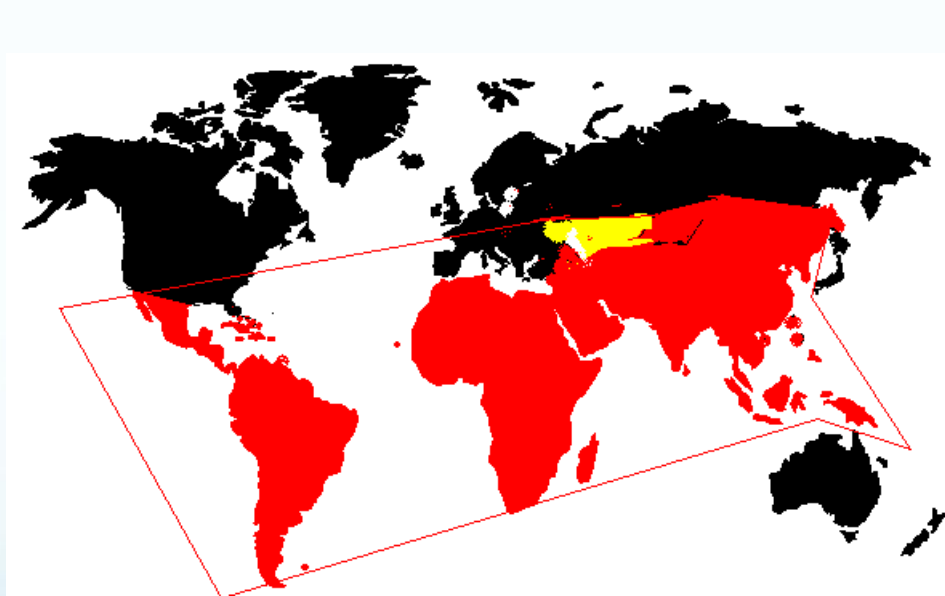
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THE BUILDING

Panel 7

Global South Criticisms of, and Alternatives to,
Mainstream IR



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A Transition to a Global South-centered Scholarship



- In this day and age, we believe that modernity has been the inoculation against the colonial essence
 - We want to believe that we have opened up spaces where the voiceless of the global south have been represented.

- Yet the very fact that we are still referring to those in the global south as voiceless perpetuates the fact that someone else has to speak for them
 - The truth is that the global south does in fact have a voice; it is just not being heard.

- The discourse and representation of the global south is still overwhelmingly euro-centric
- And are still highly reproducing stereotypes, subjugation, and the colonial essence in today's world

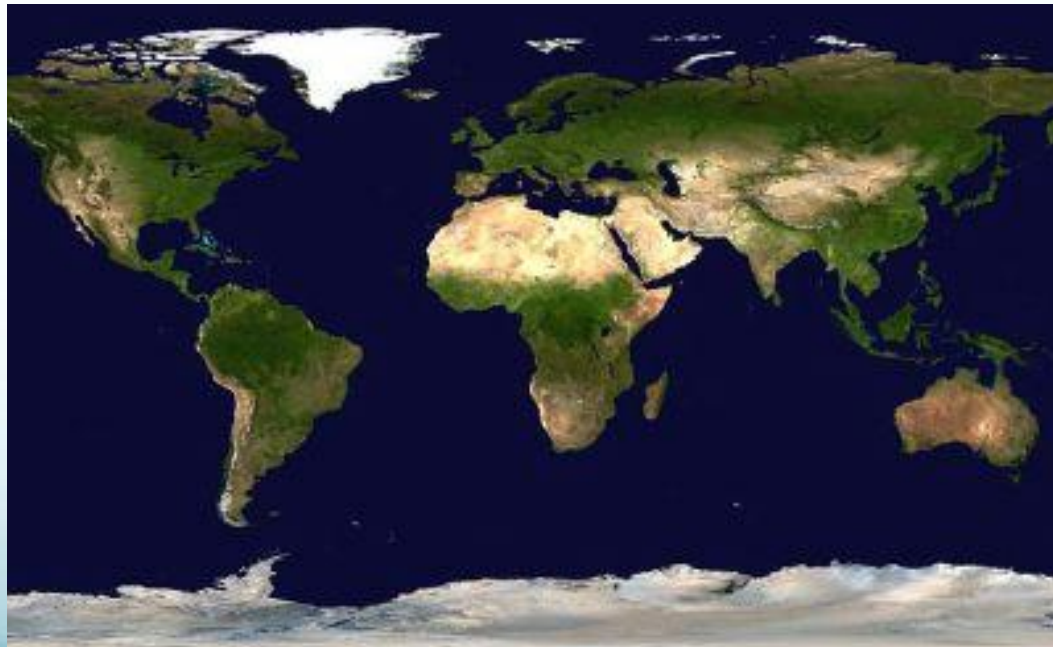
- Academia is still heavily reproducing male-dominated and euro-centric knowledge on the global south.



- The global north has always positioned its identity as developed, civilized, and advanced
- Opposite to the global south, that has been labeled as underdeveloped, uncivilized, and archaic.

- So who is given the authority to produce knowledge?
- What is expert knowledge?
- And why should it count more than any other, like local knowledge?

- White western males of the middle and upper classes dominate the discussion on the global south.

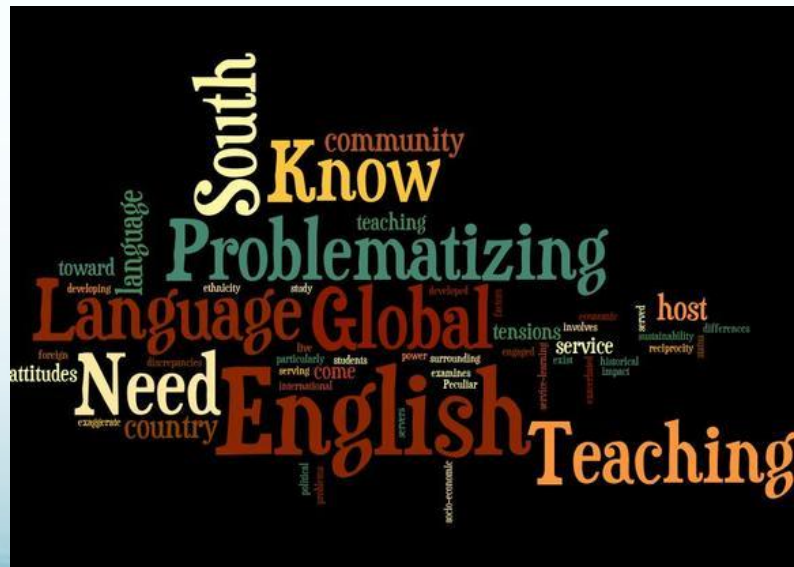


- Countries like Mexico, China, and India are important global actors with a rich and vivid cultural, political, and economic history that are succeeding in the betterment of their nation and are integral parts to the worldwide network.
- Yet there is no global initiative to talk about the advancing countries of the South or their successes.

- Latin American courses are being saturated with discussion on the increased narcotics trade, gang violence, and destitution
- Yet nowhere in this discussion do we learn about things such as Cuba and Costa Rica having two of the highest literacy rates in the world, Argentina's attention to human rights as it legalized same-sex marriage even before the United States, or the increased social assistance programs being implemented all over Brazil and Chile.
- However, only the areas of immigration, drug cartels, and civil unrest are given an abundance of attention that paints places such as the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America as threats.

- The discourse that also profusely surrounds the global south has concentrated on the need to develop, modernize, and civilize the countries of the global south.
 - There is a strength of focus on converting the South into something else as if what already is, is less than the North.
- Alternative economies, knowledge, or modernity are not given a place to stand on the academic stage.

- As Eduardo Galeano, a Uruguayan journalist and novelist, would say, the reality of the situation is the fact that there is a dictatorship of one system over the other taking place.



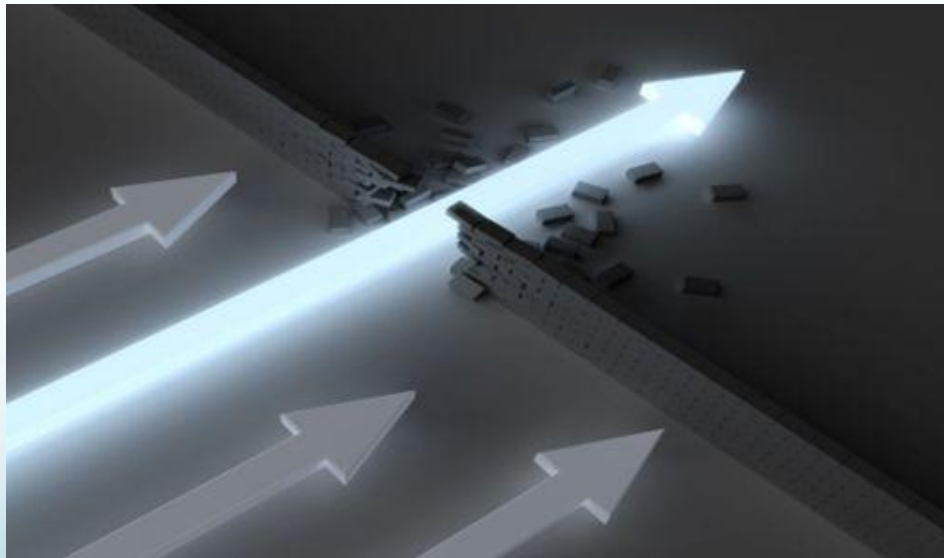
- We must challenge the dominant discussion that states that the south has to transform in order to earn its place in global scholarship.
- As if indigenous knowledge or local methodologies have no place in the academic sphere
 - And the only discourse counted as valuable is that of the global north.

- We then must invent new ways of addressing fundamental issues while also bringing to light the success of the region using diverse epistemologies and methods.

- Teach on the global south through global south research by the region's scholars.



- We must break down the barriers and fully utilize epistemologies such as postcolonial research paradigm, Subaltern geopolitics, and Indigenous feminist research in a larger global context.



- Disrupt dominate narratives/discourse/stories that we've heard about the global south
- Utilize global south scholar and journals such as:
 - Peruvian Scholar Quijano
 - Enrique Dussel , Argentine scholars that works in Mexico
 - Gustavo Esteva Mexican scholar, founder of the [Universidad de la Tierra](#) in Mexico City
- Nepantla: Views from South

- Following the example from the World Social Forum
 - **“Another world is possible”**
 - So let us achieve it through a re-working and re-thinking of global south discourse and academia

Paper and Presentation by:

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