







Decolonizing Knowledge Systems in Scientific International Cooperation

Joel Onyango

African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)

Gabi Slezak

University of Vienna, Austrian Foundation for Development Research (ÖFSE)

Valuing diversity

...decolonising requires that we open up the space for **free thinking**. Free thinking with regards to context, where local knowledge and local experiences in research methodologies challenge the Eurocentric (often dominant) nature...

 Valuing diversity in application of approaches to sustainability (plurality)



Challenging incumbencies

...by way of its definition around undoing colonial rule over subordinate countries, it implies looking for some level of positionality to **counter** aspects around **incumbent** power...

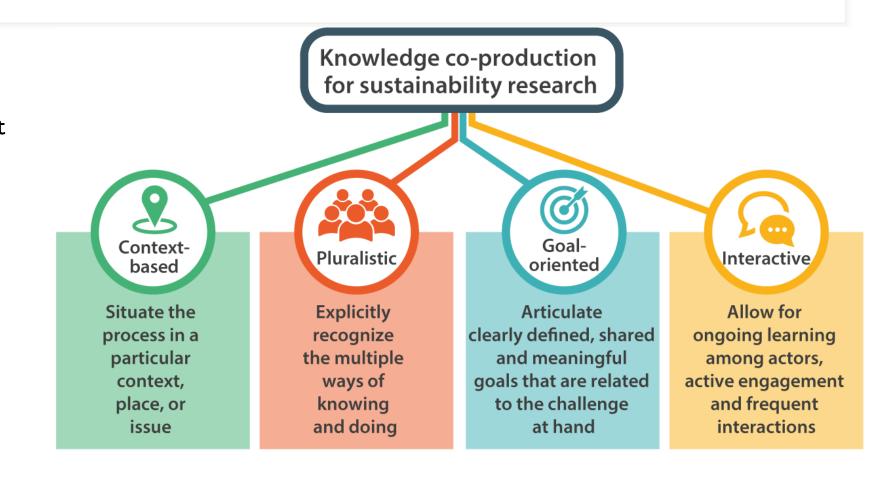
 Challenging power through approaches (methodological rebellion | Scholarly activism)



Articulation

...researcher should go beyond seeking the people being researched where there are not just mere objects of the research but **collaborators** and **co-designers** of the research agendas...

Articulating approaches (context)



Philosophical underpinings

...there are various **philosophical underpinnings** around methods based on prior commitments... therefore bring in different ontological and epistemological perspective...

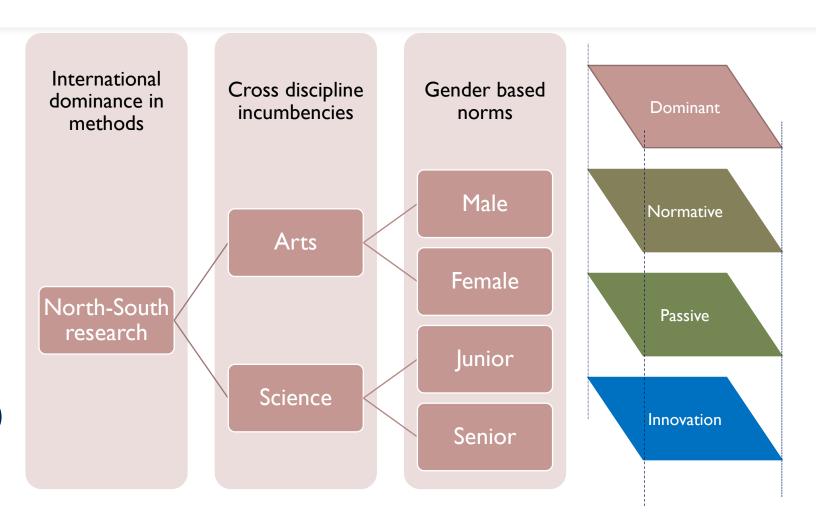
• Philosophical underpinnings in approaches (parallels and hegemonies)



Multiple pathways

...perceived research power dynamics between north-south, female-male researcher; is likely to tilt decolonising research into multiple layers of actions...

 Multidimensionali ty of approaches (multiple pathways)



...to
decolonise,
is to offer
more
space for
participation,
action, and
innovation...

Examples from Collaborations:

Pseudo-Multidisciplinarity

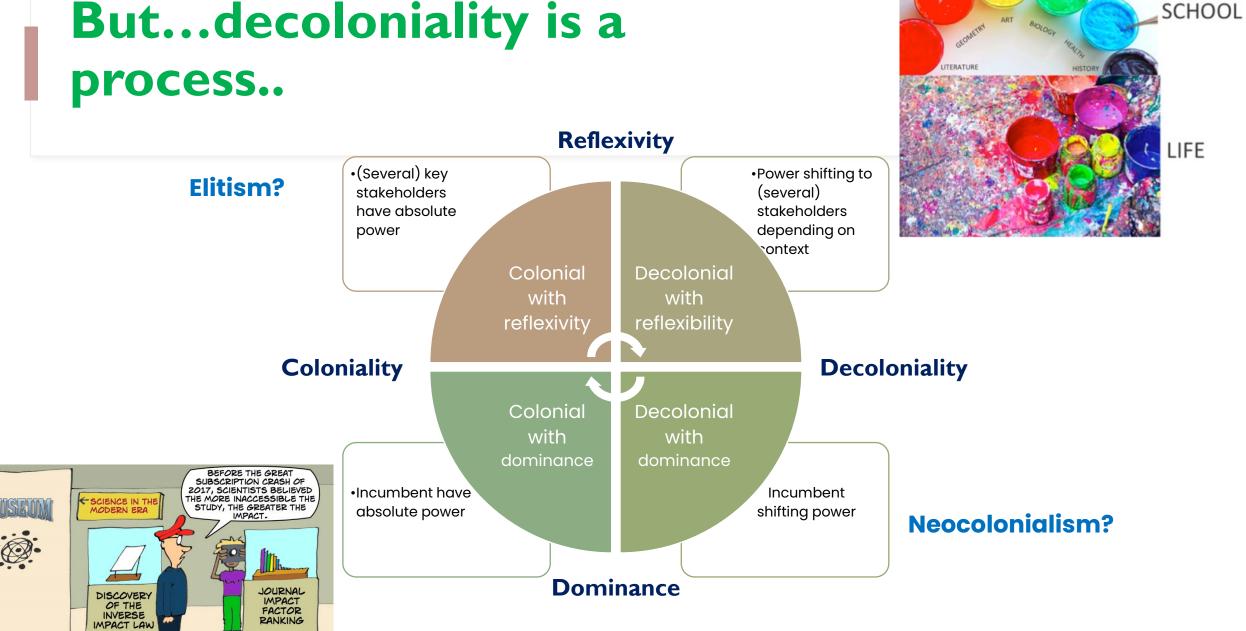
Research Power Dynamics

Gender Reflective Foci

Research Funding

Research Politics

But...decoloniality is a



What can you do?

- Recognize the power dynamics embedded in knowledge production
- Engage with different knowledge systems and epistemologies
- Create spaces for knowledge exchange and dialogue
- Create equitable partnerships and collaborations within knowledge production

Socio-Economic Drivers Urbanization, Economic Growth, Technological Changes **Environmental Drivers** Driver Based Responses Family Planning & Womens' Education Demographic Transition, Nutrition Transition Policy Revision & Implementation for: Population Growth International and National Strategies for Sustainable Fisheries and Aqc development. Climate Change - Climate Change Mitigation Strategies Demand of Proteins Food Demand Water Shortage Fishdemand Pressure Based Responses Management Implementation Pressures Traditional Governance Republican Governance **Fisheries** Agriculture Dam Construction - Pollution Modernization of Fishing Techniques Loss of Connectivity Human Behaviour Modification Human Behaviour Modifictation - Block of Fish Migration - Water Abstraction Commercialization of Fishing through Awareness Rising, through Religion & Belief Sedimentation Education, Training Lack of Management Implementation Implementation on Local Level Ignorance of Regulations Habitat Ment Fishing Licence Overfishing Ban of unsuitable Fishing Gear Construction of Fish Ladders Definition of Buffer Zones State Changes Morphological Changes Physics-Chemical Changes Biological Changes Loss of Habitats Increased Water Temperature State Based Responses Habitat Fragmentation Eutrophication 4 Revegetation Lower Total Fish Population Restoration Impaired Water Quality Reduced Fish Biodiversity Restocking Monitoring Smaller Average Fish Size Decreased Water Volume Reduced Addresses, triggers Reproductive Capacity Increases Fish Disease Leads to Impact Based Responses Socio-Economic Impacts Environmental Impacts Alternative Livelihood Possible Drying of Reservoirs Reduced Quantity and Quality (to compensate losses of income) of Fish Catch Decline of Fish Stocks Promotion of Age Development Awareness Rising & Training Increasing Poverty Impaired Nutrition Technical Improvement Subsidize Increasing Imports, Market Dependency

Complexity in transdisciplinary research

Complex model

Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) Hundscheid 2019

Social Simulations with diverse groups of stakeholders







Melcher et al. (eds.) 2020 in print SUSFISH Book

Multiperspective approach

- ✓ Power dynamics embedded in knowledge production
- ✓ Spaces for knowledge exchange and dialogue
- ✓ Equitable partnerships & collaborations within knowledge production

? Engaging with different knowledge systems and epistemologies

Thanks!





Climate Resilient Economies Programme





Austrian

— Development Cooperation

appear

Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development

