Research Colonialism:

Working within Complex Systems

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Research Colonialism

aka: Scientific colonialism, Scientific imperialism, Safari research, and Missionary research

What is it?

Indirect control or exploitation by countries in the Northern hemisphere over those in the Southern hemisphere

Jentsch & Pilley, 2003

"Africa south of the Sahara is the scientific backyard of West Europe... the intellectual domination of the West is growing rather than diminishing"

Nagtegaal & DeBruin, 1994



of biomedical publications in high impact journals authored are by sub-Sahara African researchers Uthman, et al, 2015



of sub-Sahara African research publications include an in-country co-author

Dahdouh-Guebas et al., 2003

62%

of publications with a LMIC author had authors from multiple countries ...Collaboration is great but only 3% of those were south-south partnerships, the rest included a northern co-author Fonseca e Fonseca et al., 2018

Publications by "southern" authors

Bibliometric analyses of peer-reviewed journal articles

Impacts of Research Colonialism

Lack of Misaligned Ħ acknowledgement priorities & inclusion Exploitation Sustainability & & lack of dependency benefits

Bowsher et al., 2019; Chu et al., 2014; Dahdouh-Guebas et al., 2003; Gauiter et al., 2018; Roy et al., 2018

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Collaboration can be a fruitful exchange of ideas, but when a lowresourced country partners almost exclusively with high-income countries, collaboration may turn into dependence or even subordination

Roy, 2018

Dependency Theory

- Unequal relationship between the core and periphery
- Core has funding, equipment, and skilled human resources
- Collaboration benefits the core because they have tools to disseminate information
- Periphery benefits because they can partner with scientific knowledge at the core
- Periphery becomes increasingly dependent on the core to improve their scientific position

Interdependency Theory

Positive growth among all partners

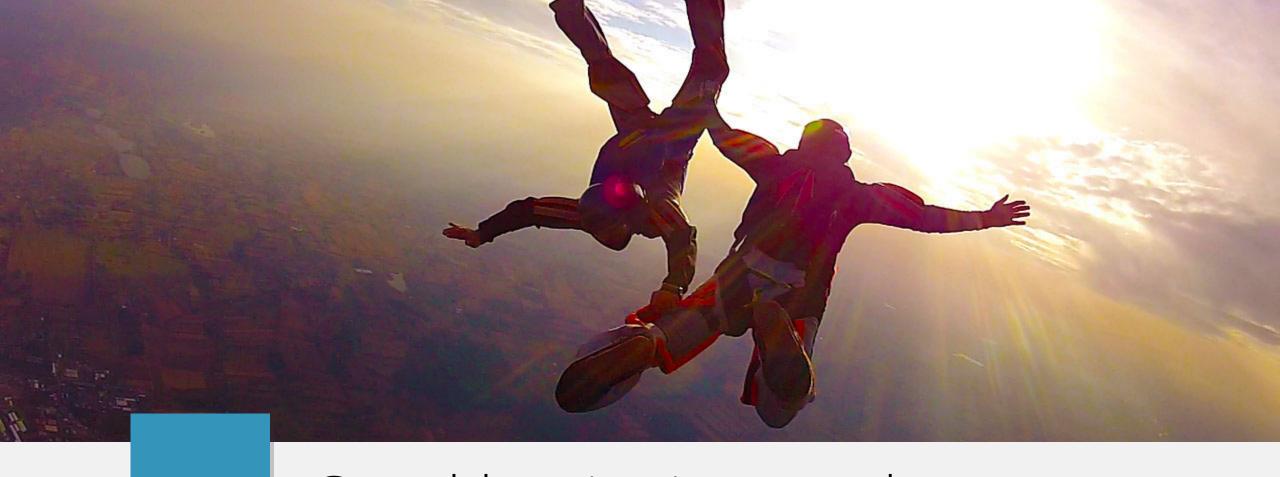
Institutionalism

- Science practiced at the core is viewed to be the correct model
- Educational and collegial ties perpetuate the rule-like status of the core's methods, practices, and views



Consider...

- In what ways do your experiences support or refute the data?
 - o How has research colonialism, dependency, and/or interdependency surfaced in your partnerships?
- Are all voices are included in your partnerships? How do you know?
- What steps can you take at the beginning of a partnership to encourage equitable collaboration?



Good beginnings make good endings. -Ghanaian Proverb