# Controlling Knowledge and the Role of Engaged Intellectuals

*Call for contributions*

The desire to combat eurocentrism and the dominance of Euro-American epistemologies in global knowledge production has been pronounced at least since the second half of the twentieth century. Contestations of these biases and epistemological inequalities are, for example, postcolonial theory, "Southern Theory", subaltern studies, and recent aims to decolonize curricula. They have helped a great deal to better understand, and challenge, concrete mechanisms of constraint resulting from exclusion in knowledge production and silencing, also referred to as "epistemicide" (de Sousa Santos) or "epistemic racism" (Mignolo). They have also shown that other traditions of knowledge production and seeing the world have existed for a long time. Yet despite these laudable discussions, epistemic biases and inequalities in global structures of knowledge production persist.

For this issue of *Voices from Around the World* we invite contributors to critically reflect on processes of producing knowledge. Has there been a major (epistemic) transformation towards more balanced global knowledge production? Or have inequalities been intensified? Moreover, how do scholars and artists, as so-called engaged intellectuals, defy the replications of "western-centric" and "colonizing" knowledge with regard to, for example, disciplinary roots and conventions, publication and funding schemes, or interiorized colonial practices? Also, how are terms related to epistemic injustices defined? What do we understand by "global knowledge production" or "epistemic inequality"? The aim is to investigate to what extent, how and why institutional, financial and ideological factors restrain the maneuvering spaces, and how scholars, artists and civil society institutions can unmask, denounce and resist them.

We invite authors and artists to share short impressions, interventions, vignettes, photographs, poems, or philosophical reflections, which address the challenges and barriers that inhibit the production of non-discriminatory, egalitarian knowledge. What are the (supranational, institutional and individual) maneuvering spaces of scholars and artists in reifying or contesting the global (re)production of knowledge and its unequal power relations? Which scholarly or creative practices may facilitate a more egalitarian production of knowledge? Other potential questions that could be addressed are, for instance:

- Do discussions about epistemic injustice and exclusion of "the South" turn out to be a profitable way to construct another type of expert identity?
- Can we identify the (conscious) "gatekeepers" of epistemic exclusion? And if so, what can be done at conferences, in the publishing and funding sectors, etc. to challenge their power?
- How can we adapt our research topics or methods to shape a more egalitarian (global) knowledge production? What actual and tangible initiatives do we need?
- How does local and global knowledge connect and how do we conceptualize them?
- How do existing biases and systemic inequality impact scholarly or creative work?
- How can privileged scholars engage in critical self-reflection of their academic practices?

We welcome text-based submissions of between 800 and 2000 words, but also encourage

submissions of photo essays, videos, sounds or other multimedia formats. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

- **Deadline: 15 June 2018**
- **Please consult the style sheet included below.**
- **Contact for submissions and inquiries: gssc-voices@uni-koeln.de**

### *Voices from around the world* – an alternative online journal

*Voices from around the world* is an alternative online journal published by the University of Cologne's Global South Studies Center (GSSC). It aims at publishing short contributions of various formats (texts, videos, interviews, pictures, music, poems etc.). The contributions should be comprehensible for people beyond the walls of academia and written contributions should have a maximum length of about 1500/2000 words. The open-access journal is published on the GSSC website. The goal is to publish contributions that reflect various opinions on a common theme or concept from around the world and publish them in an easy accessible way.

For the previous issues of *Voices from Around the World* visit http://voices.uni-koeln.de

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# STYLE GUIDE
# VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Please cite according to the American Sociological Association Style Guide (4th ed., 2010).

Basic guidelines and examples can be found here: http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/ documents/teaching/pdfs/Quick_Tips_for_ASA_Style.pdf

When submitting the final document please use one of the following text formats:

.docx, .doc, .pdf

The document name must not contain diacritics, spaces or special characters!

**Images:**

Please submit images in one of the following formats:

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Please do NOT embed your images into Word-documents or PDF files.

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To enable us to assign the images in the right order, please use the following rules to name your images:

-Author Name

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-Keyword Article

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⟶ author_issue_article_no  (example: tappe_ghosts_bombs_01)

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When referring to the pictures in the text please refer to the number of the picture, please avoid references such as "the picture above, to the right, to the left..."

Resolution: 300dpi

Size: longest side at least 400px.

In order to display the pictures in a picture gallery, we need the pictures in a horizontal format.

**Audio/Videofiles:**

Please submit the files in the following formats

Video formats: MP4, AVI, MOV, WMV

Audio formats: MP3, AIFF, WAV, FLAC, WMA

Name: same rules as in images

# YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CONVENTIONS DESCRIBED IN
# THIS GUIDE WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED!