

GLOBAL SOUTH

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The term Global South has been of great benefit in re-introducing studies on Africa, Asia, and Latin America into the academic field. The necessary deconstruction of development in post-development approaches in the 1990s has contributed to the – probably unintended – crisis of Development Studies and Third-World Area Study Centers. The end of the “Third World” has been proclaimed, which has led to a significant reduction of studies on these areas. After the end of the bipolar world, and in the context of an accelerated globalization process, Area Studies – especially on the so called Third-World countries – have been displaced by Global Studies. With a Global South-oriented approach, areas formerly peripheral to global studies are placed at the center of attention once more.

Nevertheless, the concept of the Global South shares some of the limitations of the concept of the Third World. It evokes imaginations of a geographical North-South divide, which does not correspond to the complex entanglements and uneven developments in the real world. Areas incorporated under the label *Global South* can also be found in the geographical North. Ethnic ghettos and barrios in US American cities are one example; the “Latinoization” of the US is another. And the gated communities of the cosmopolitan elite in Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, or Santiago de Chile have more in common with their counterparts in Miami, L.A. or Chicago than with the surrounding barrios, marginales and favelas.

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