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International Education
Association of South Africa

Partnerships and Power Dynamics – A Perspective from the global South

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ABOUT ME



- Experience: 20+ years in international education, with a focus on higher education and partnerships
- Positionality: Practitioner-scholar; North-South & South-North; South Africa
- Interest: Decolonial approaches to internationalisation



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ABOUT IEASA



IEASA

International Education
Association of South Africa

- Non-profit organisation, established in 1997
- Advancing internationalisation of higher education with an African perspective in a global context
- 21 institutional members; small secretariat
- Member of the Network of International Education Associations (NIEA)
- PIONEER Awards 2022 finalist



- 24th IEASA Conference, 24 – 26 August 2022, “Reigniting and Reimagining Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa (<https://ieasa-conference.studysa.org>)



POINTS OF DEPARTURE



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- North-South partnerships are often characterised by imbalances and inequalities regarding resources, power and knowledge.
 - Northern domination – Southern dependencies
- Internationalisation and partnerships practices tend to disproportionately benefit the North.
 - “Northern desires – Southern needs”
- The COVID-19 pandemic is a watershed moment for higher education internationalisation and an invitation to rethink internationalisation concepts, models and practices.



IMBALANCED NORTH-SOUTH PARTNERSHIPS



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- Resources
 - Funding
 - Infrastructure
 - Capacity
- Benefits
 - Mobilities
 - Research outputs
- Attitudes, expectations
- Hegemony of Northern knowledge
 - Conventional gaze from N to S
 - Field studies/data collection in the South – Knowledge production/data analysis in the North



CHANGING PARADIGM



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- The paradigm of North-South partnerships is changing.
- Change is driven by the South:
 - Motivated by a yearning for justice and greater equality.
 - Aided by increasing confidence.
 - Facilitated by decolonial scholarship and practice.
 - Accelerated by COVID-19.
- Change is effected by both Southern and Northern and partners.



MOMENT FOR REFLECTION



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- Does any of this resonate with you?
- Can you identify any challenge/s in your partnership practice/s?
 - If yes, what can you do about it?
 - If no, what are you doing differently?
- How can we work together, e.g. to develop new frameworks for North-South partnerships?
- What about the bigger picture?



CRITICAL QUESTIONS



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Example: Research cooperation

“Whose research is it? Who owns it? Whose interests does it serve? Who will benefit from it? Who has designed its questions and framed its scope? Who will carry it out? Who will write it up? How will its results be disseminated?”

(Linda Tuhiwai Smith, 1999)



GUIDING QUESTIONS



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- How can North-South partnerships be more equitable, inclusive and responsible?
 - Initiation
 - Planning
 - Execution
 - Closure
- What are the implications?
 - At project level
 - At institutional level
 - At programme level



CONTACT DETAILS



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