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# Changing the paradigm of higher education internationalisation research

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**EAIE** | **Glasgow** 15-18 SEPTEMBER

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Welcome to Session 7.09

# Changing the paradigm of higher education internationalisation research

Dr Nico Jooste

# Introduction

## Trends and issues in higher education internationalisation research

- Research and collaboration
- Conferences
- Topics and themes under discussion
- Who are the publishers?
- Co-opting the individuals and groups from the South to make research and agendas in the North look more 'inclusive' and global
- The role of supervisors and promoters

# IEASA 2015 – Observation from Leonard Engel from EAIE

‘Most conferences address topics like student and staff mobility, credential evaluation, credit transfer, student recruitment, joint degree programmes, cooperation, internationalisation strategy and internationalisation at home as if they are entities in their own right.

At the IEASA conference, topics were addressed in the context of the world in which we live.

Traditional internationalisation topics were a side note in a more fundamental discussion about the role of academia and international education in facing societal challenges not only in South Africa, but globally.’

# IEASA 2015 – Observation from Leonard Engel from EAIE

‘The passion with which societal questions were discussed infused the debate about how internationalisation of higher education should be an instrument in achieving positive societal goals.

Internationalisation should not be seen as a world unto itself or as a bubble, but rather as an important tool to address societal issues on a global scale.

We, in the Global North, sometimes lack this perspective and, as a result, the inspiration and sense of urgency.’

Dr Savo Heleta

# The State of Internationalisation Research and Debates

Higher education internationalisation research and debates have been dominated by organisations and individuals from the developed world

This has been due to the power imbalances and dominance of the global North in all spheres of life, including higher education

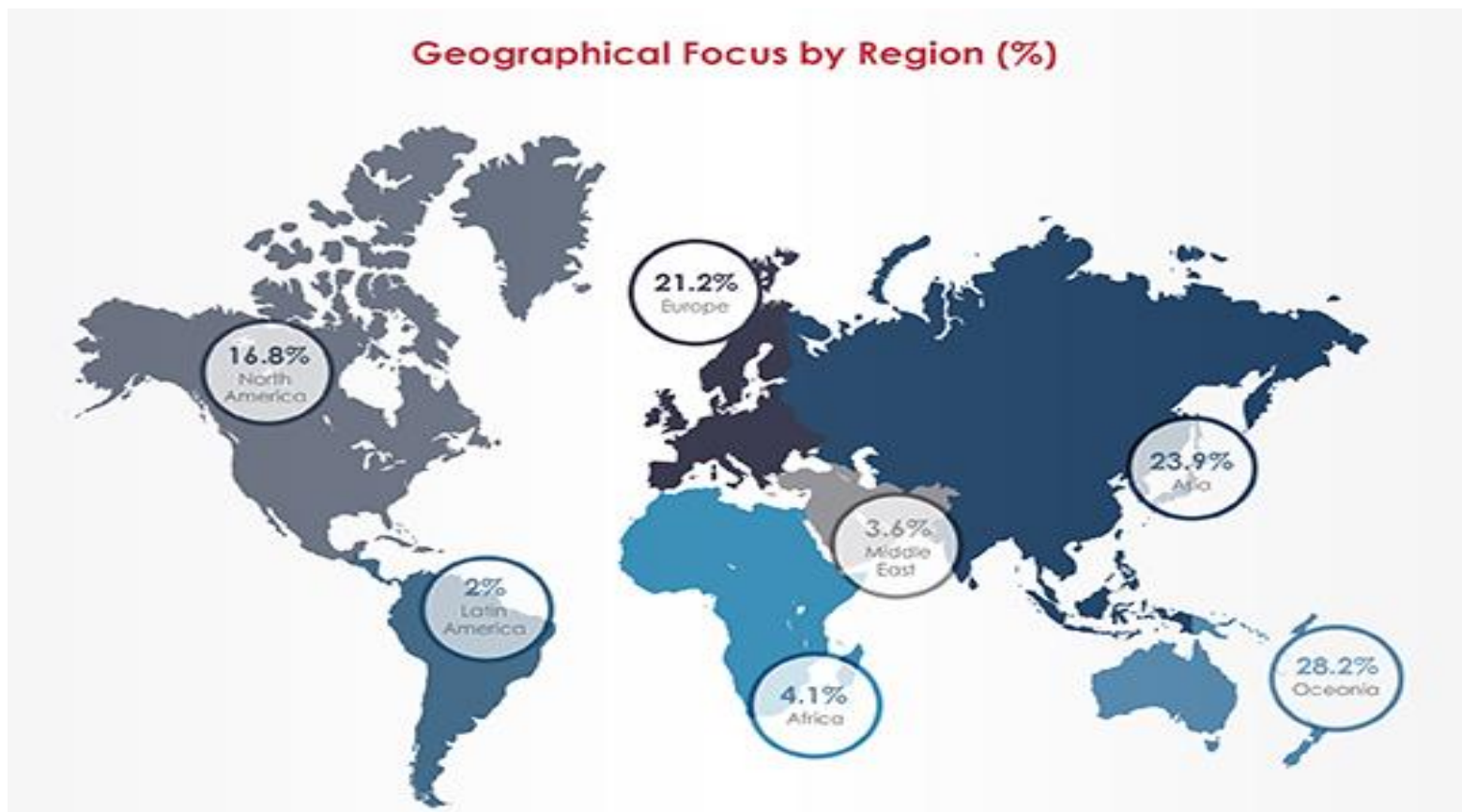


# The State of Internationalisation Research and Debates

Researchers and practitioners from the South are often ignored and sometimes coopted by the North to add the Southern voice to the debates

The passivity from many parts of the global South has added to its lack of representation and voices in this space

# What's Hot in International Education Research?



2011-2013: Analysis prepared by the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) for its International Education Research Network (IERN)

# Research Focus Globally

Student and staff mobility, student recruitment, study abroad, joint degrees, partnerships, global citizenship...

These are approached 'as if they are entities in their own right' and not necessarily in the context of the world in which we live.

(Leonard Engel)

Where is HE internationalisation research in relation to big global challenges such as conflict; poverty; climate change; inequality; migration; political and other kinds of oppression; and post-conflict reconstruction?

What is the role and responsibility of HE and internationalisation in peace-building, development and social justice in the world?

# Copy and Paste

The existing theories and approaches, developed in the global North, are in most cases the primary references for all

HE institutions in the global South often tend to copy the approaches, strategies and frameworks developed/used in the global North

- Comprehensive internationalisation, internationalisation of the curriculum, internationalisation at home...

The problem with this is that what works for one setting will not necessarily work in another setting

- There is no one-size-fits-all solution to anything
- Context is very important!

# How to Challenge Dominant Discourses?

Higher education institutions and researchers in the global South need to be proactive and engage in research on internationalisation

Come up with new theories, approaches and knowledge that will work for the global South

# How to Challenge Dominant Discourses?

## Critical social research

- Our research needs to challenge dominant discourses and ways of thinking that tend to maintain the power imbalances and dominance of the global North
- We need to question how institutions, policies, frameworks and approaches are formulated and implemented in practice
- Highlight inequalities and injustices and improve future relations and paradigms

We need an inclusive dialogue where all are given space, and all are heard and represented

- We want to work together on case studies; we don't want to remain case study subjects

Mr Jody Felton

# Collaboration with the Global North

What we currently have

What we would like to see happen

Current engagement model: Two way or multilateral partnerships?

- Patriarchical/heirarchical system
- Northern counterparts appear to be doing us a ‘favour’



# What We Currently Have

Semester study abroad exchanges ratios is unequal - 3:1

Africa is used as data mine

# What We Currently Have

## USHEPiA

- Co-supervision
- Now self-funded

## ARISE

- Consultative process
- Relevant thematic fields

## African Centres of Excellence

## Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Project

# What We Would Like to Have

Equality in mobility

Co-badged degrees

Tri-party collaborations

- South–South–North
- Intra South African partnerships with not only conventional partners but also rural institutions

Dr Miguel Martinez-Saenz

An inquiry into the nature and causes of the wealth of nations

Language and symbolic representation

Global North and Global South vs 1/3 world: 2/3 world

## Mohanty: Under Western eyes revisited

- Feminist as tourist
- Feminist as explorer/researcher
- Feminist solidarity or feminist as comparative studies

## Paradigms

- Commercialization, 'private good,' economies of scale
- Student mobility: The NORM?

Curriculum: Whose standards? (Whose justice? Which rationality?)

Research: An integrated approach

Accreditation/quality assurance: Be like us or else? Assimilation is mandated

# Way Forward



# HE Internationalisation Centres of Research Excellence

We propose the establishment of interlinked global centres of research excellence around the world to act as vehicles for enhancement of research capacity and global collaboration

Researchers and practitioners need to engage in international dialogue and research that will take the field forward in an inclusive process for all

- Example: collaboration between BRICS academic think tanks
- Value of the centres of excellence
- What are the challenges (funding...)?

# Questions?