

From Arrogant Extension to Respectful Solidarity

Talk delivered at

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“Service-Learning: Touching Lives and Transforming Communities through Innovative
Pedagogy, Research and Partnership”
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**Service Learning Asia Network [SLAN]
United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia**

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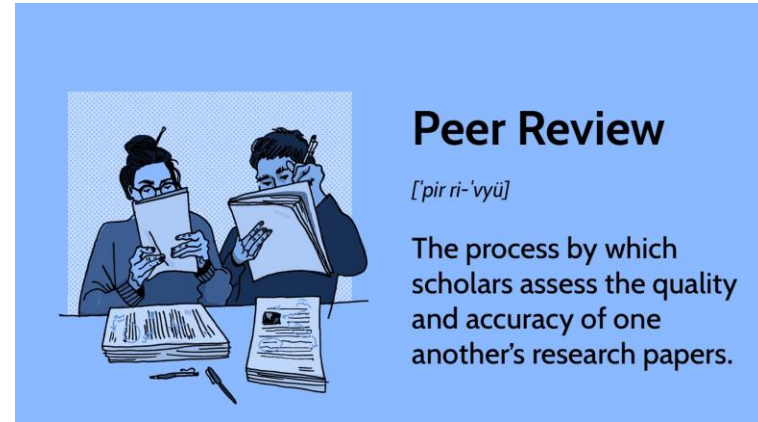
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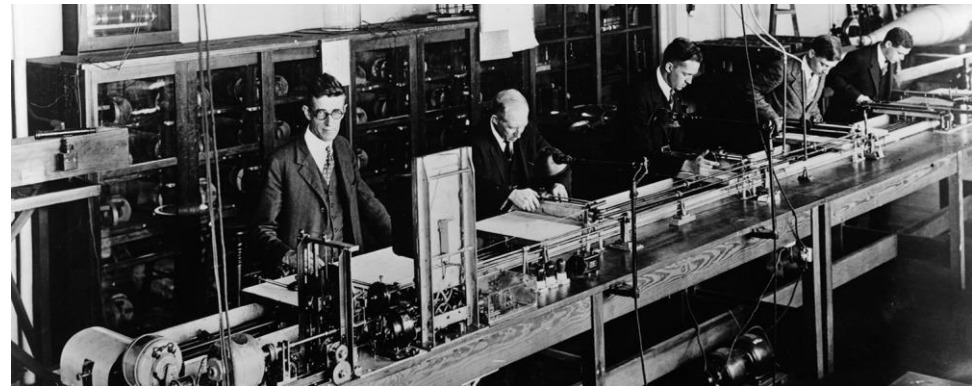
University inside walls

- Modern system of publication
- Classrooms for teaching
- Certification for teaching & research
- Accreditations for granting certificates



Growth of Modern Science

- Laboratories in Europe & North
- Slave trade & samples in Global South
- Chemistry & physics in world war I & II
- Colonial control over resources



Rise of Extra-Mural Studies

- Outside the walls....field
- Medicine, agriculture, veterinary students
- Extension services....outside the wall
- Clinical & field trials....outside the walls



Epistemological Movements

- Subaltern studies....from below
- Bhakti movement scholars....Ramanujam, Rumi, Nanak, Kabir...
- Indigenous scholars....ecological worldviews...
- Experiential knowers....herbal medicines, water diviners, spiritual healers



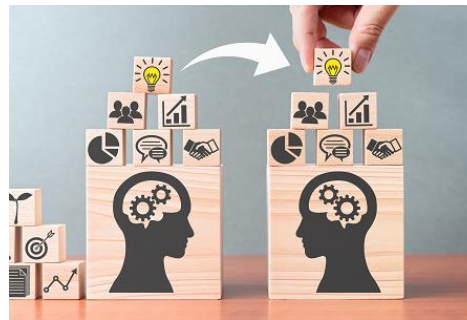
Epistemic Justice

- Whose knowledge counts?
- Universal expertise, contextual place-based
- Language & culture provide concepts & theories
- Dominant ideas of our times are ideas of dominant classes



Post-pandemic Blues

- Holistic health...yoga, meditation & nutrition
- Food security...organic, without chemicals, local, seasonal
- Climate disasters....triggered by knowledge economy and neo-liberalism
- Knowledge democracy....bridging knowledges



Respectful Solidarity

- Valuing community knowledge
- Mutual learning....service together
- Dialogue across knowledges
- Actions for ecological justice & social inclusion



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