

## **Rethinking development research: objects and subjects in development studies**

Conveners:

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Despite a broad consensus that global problems require global solutions, academia and research remain dominated by Western scholars and epistemologies. Western knowledge and its forms of production are considered as universally applicable and relevant. It is widely accepted that assumptions rooted in European modernity are similarly applicable in other contexts and hemispheres too. Much has been said about the continuation of colonial matrix of power that revolves around the notions of binary construction of epistemologies, and categories of identities along racial, ethnic, and/or religious lines that are objective in outlook. Yet, Southern knowledge(s) continue to be marginalized and/or silenced.

In this panel, we analyze the problematic of objectivity from the lens of knowledge construction. We look at the foundations of epistemologies, i.e., object-subject relations that generate knowledge. The panel aims to address asymmetric relations through explorations into what ends and by what means development research and training is or should be conducted, especially by institutions in the North. We critically interrogate what is needed for our discipline(s) to contribute to truly transformative processes in knowledge production, dissemination, policy and practice. We invite contributions that deal with:

- Strategies for decolonizing development knowledge and methodologies of research
- Starting points for a renewed vision on development research and training
- Building South-North frameworks of knowledge and knowledge production
- Efforts and experiences to reduce the asymmetry in North-South interaction.
- Establishing subjectively-objective epistemologies that are inclusive in nature, participatory in methodologies and closer to the human experiences of the social worlds we live in.