

Beyond Area Studies: Global South Studies

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Three questions – "Where is the Global South?" "Where was the Global South?" and "What is the Global South?" – were raised by Professor West-Pavlov to define what Global South studies mean today.

Where is the Global South, is the first question. According to Professor West-Pavlov, the term "Global South" first appeared in the Independent Commission on International Development Issues Report from the 1980s, which was presided over by Willy Brandt. One may get a sense of how challenging it is to discuss the Global South in precise and defined terms from this report. We cannot separate the countries that obviously belong to the Global South based solely on geography, so it is quite difficult for us to delimit the Global South. For instance, although Mexico and India are geographically in the northern hemisphere, they are frequently viewed as being in the Global South. Australia, on the other hand, is geographically south of the equator and yet, if one ignores the position of its persistently marginalized, underprivileged, and discriminated-against indigenous population, it is a classic Global North country. In this regard, even if it has been many years since the majority of the remnants of colonial control have been removed, one suddenly discovers that one is still in the midst of a colonial dynamic. As a result of its inherent difficulties, the concept of "Global South" is inherently ambiguous. Professor Pavlov contended, however, that this ambiguity is actually one of the richness of this concept, not a drawback. The "Global South" lacks a precise definition, which makes it possible to upend accepted beliefs and to reevaluate our distorted viewpoints on global power structures.

Where was the Global South, was the second question. According to Professor Pavlov, the question has a number of potential historical answers. The long-lasting imperial colonial power could be seen as the historical sediment that gave rise to the Global South. According to historical data and economic statistics, the majority of the Global South is made up of less developed and, historically, colonial countries. But because it obscured histories of "early globalization," the emphasis and fixation on the protracted period of colonial exploitation might also be criticized. For instance, non-Western versions of globalization have been taking place for thousands of years in the Indian Ocean World. The "Third World" has long been identified with the "Global South" in reference to three significant international conferences that took place during the Cold War: the Bandung Conference in 1955, the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961, and the Tri-Continental Conference in Havana in 1966. The phrase "Global South" first became widely used around the year 2000. Talking about a three-tiered world order became obsolete with the conclusion of the Cold War and the fall of the Eastern Block, which caused the "Third World" to lose its analytical edge. The use of the Global South in academic writing and commentary started to rise with the establishment of the BRICS format. In fact, there exist a variety of approaches to the Global South at different analytical levels or scales of historical interrogations.

What is the Global South, was the third question. It is not about a recognized field of study or

body of work while discussing the Global South. Instead, the Global Souths boundaries and trends are highly ambiguous, and its institutional foundations are shaky. So, we may frame our discussion of the Global South as a series of queries. The Global South is made up of both disparity-based interactions and solidarity-based relationships. The Global South is associated with a range of demands related to politics, society, the economy, and geopolitics. Additionally, the Global South could be seen as a means of generating change and the future. Finally, rather than only explaining the state of the globe, the Global South is a way of creating new knowledge. In order to come up with new questions and solutions, one of the challenges of the new Global South studies is to establish new linkages between previously distinct or isolated notions. The study of the Global South is considered to be utmost interdisciplinary. According to Professor West-Pavlov's edited book "The Global South and Literature", a specific disciplinary intervention should be made to the existing Global South studies from the viewpoint of literary studies. With his 25 international colleagues who are all trained in literary and cultural studies, Professor Pavlov aims to transcend conventional geographical, disciplinary, and methodological boundaries for this particular intervention. The Indian Ocean World, the Global South Atlantic, and the pan-indigenous world are just a few examples of alternative zones of economic, social, migratory, and cultural interactions that, in Professor West-Pavlov's opinion, should be the focus of Global South studies. However, it should also induce the disciplines to step outside of their comfort zones and open up to one another.

Global South studies concentrate on a number of major topics from a particularly disciplinary perspective. The first is global economic cooperation, particularly the support of southern economic actors. The delivery of vaccines during the current pandemic is a second hot topic in contemporary Global South studies. A third one is what was formerly known as TWAIL (Third World Approaches to International Law), studying international law and human rights promoted in and by the South. The fourth is the decolonization of institutional education and indigenous knowledge. The highly developed indigenous knowledge about the use of fire in various locations is of particular interest to Professor West-Pavlov in this age of incendiaries. Fifth is the study of South-South migration that turns attention away from the paranoid focus of South-North migration scholarship. The sixth topic refers to the impact of and activism related to climate change in the South, such as the Glasgow COP26 loss and damage discussions. The Sustainable Development Goals are another subject worth of inquiry in Global South studies. One of the Sustainable Development Goals is well-being, which offers a plethora of interdisciplinary viewpoints and allows the humanities to serve as a sort of hub for many perspectives, theories and methodologies. The *Global South and Literature*, edited by Professor West-Pavlov, aims to serve as an illustration of the recently developed inter-disciplinary conversation that the field of Global South studies encourages.

Professor Pavlov concluded by claiming that Area Studies is a remnant of the Cold War that produces knowledge about "regional" or "continental" spheres of influence. But the North-South axis and other Cold War-era concepts and paradigms are expressly being eschewed by Global South studies. Global South studies, which include studies of the Indian Ocean, the South Atlantic region, and the Caribbean, would concentrate on lateral relationships. Additionally, they would open up brand-new knowledge axes that have not yet been established but will rise from interdisciplinary discussion.