CONFLUENCE OF ANCIENT AND MODERN WISDOMS:

Is Indigenous Development Possible?
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EXPRESS FATALE'A/GRATITUDE TO:
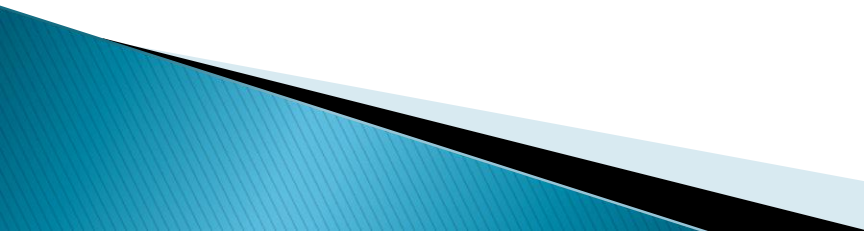
- Dr. Regina Scheyvens
- Kees Keiser
- Dr. Maria Borovnik
- Marlene Ryan
- Dr. Rochelle Stewart-Withers
- Sarah Siebert
- Massey University
- DevNet
- Other committee members

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

Last decades have seen a rising tide in <u>Social Discourse of Confluence</u> :

- Indigenous Development
- Indigenous Methodology
- Indigenous Law
- Indigenous Epistemology
- Indigenous Pedagogy, etc

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Epistemological
- Ontological
- Ideological
- Political
- Legal
- Spiritual
- Cultural
- Religious ---overtones

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

Social Discourse of Confluence:

▸ <u>Positive</u> – speaks to fundamental changes / developments human beings have arrived at after centuries of hard-work

▸ Not denying the hardships met on the journey by some human groups --- e.g, colonization, etc

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

SDC reflects two stages/periods in Social construction of knowledge about the world:
1) *Taming-the-World*
- 1500s –
- Age of Reason/Enlightenment
- Age of Discovery/Exploration
- Scientific Revolution /Transform

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Centre – Periphery movement
- Macro–scale challenges
- Macro–scale research
- Bulky Data
- Commodification of the unknown
- Competition among super-powers for commodification of the unknown – colonization; wars, etc

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

‣ 1800S/1900s:

‣ <u>Unknown</u> not quite <u>tamed</u> but <u>penetrated</u> and <u>claimed</u>

‣ Exploratory spirit to tame the unknown was far from dead

‣ Ocean/inside earth/space the <u>unknown</u> left to tame

‣ 1950s/1960s – space projects– U.S.A. –– first humans on moon

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

2) *Scientific / Epistemic Refinement*

▸ 1960s –

▸ Bulk of data collected during first period being refined

▸ Knowledge created then being used as foundation / built upon by research today

▸ Micro-challenges

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Movement of research now no longer rigidly <u>linear</u>
- i.e, centre–periphery
- But combination of both
- <u>concentric</u>
- Greater involvement/social engagement of indigenous scholars / professionals

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

What has this got to do with indigenous development? <u>A lot</u>

Epistemic Refinement Process:
- Social construction of greater bodies of knowledge about world
- Increased <u>acceptance</u> of <u>disparate</u> knowledge systems

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Not only acceptance but also integration/assimilation:
- Indigenous Methodology
- Indigenous Psychology
- Indigenous Law
- Indigenous Pedagogy
- Indigenous Governance
- Indigenous Counselling, etc, etc

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Two words representing two diametrically opposite social realities / lives
- Indigenous represents the past of development
- Combination means pulling back development into primordiality
- Indigenous should catch up with dev't

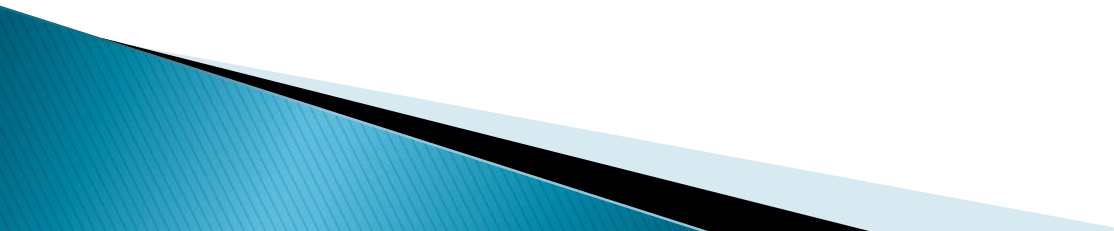# INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

Indigenous :
- Primordial, past, archaic
- Stagnation, abject poverty
- Chronic political instability
- Over-population; starvation
- Diseases, short life-span
- Ignorance, superstition
- Chronic tribal wars, etc

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

Development:
- Modernization, progress
- Affluence, education, good health
- Low birth-rate, low population
- Long life-span, entertainment
- Political stability
- Military power

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

Fundamental questions:

1) What sort of social reality / life is envisioned?
2) Is social reality <u>achievable</u> and <u>sustainable</u>?
3) Who is it for?
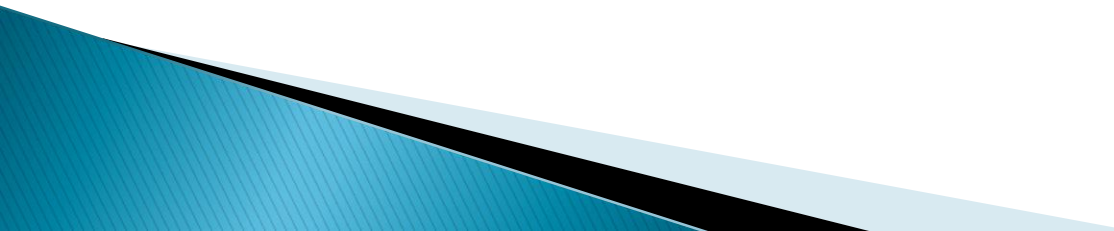4) Periphery?
5) Metropolis?
6) Both?

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Development concerned with meeting of <u>basic human needs</u>, <u>not</u> <u>wants</u>
- Empowerment
- Respect /understanding
- Self–sufficiency / independence
- Use of resources with respect
- Respect of the environment

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

▸ Greater integration of indigenous ways of knowing and doing in knowledge-base informing development

▸ De-materialization of metro-centre knowledge informing dev't

▸ Greater social engagement of indigenous population in dev't

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Paradigm Shift which incorporates <u>best</u> from indigenous and metro-centre knowledge systems
- Inside looking out
- Incorporation of indigenous knowledge important because of location of resources

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

- Transformation / Enlightenment
- Societies are human social constructs
- So can be achieved and sustained
- Benefits all