

With and Beyond Epistemologies from the South:

Ontological Epistemology of Participation, Multi-topial Hermeneutics
and the Contemporary Challenges of Planetary Realisations*

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Abstract

Our contemporary moment is a moment of crises of epistemology as part of the wider and deeper crises of modernity and the human condition. The crises of epistemology emerge from the limits of the epistemic as it is tied to epistemology of procedural certainty and closure. The crises of epistemology also reflect the limits of epistemology closed within the Euro-American universe of discourse. It is in this context the essay discusses Boaventura de Sousa Santos' Epistemologies of the South: Justice Against Epistemicide. The essay also discusses some of the limits of de Sousa Santos' alternatives, especially his lack of cultivation of the ontological in his exploration of epistemological alternatives beyond the Eurocentric canons. It then explores the pathways of ontological epistemology of participation which bring epistemic and ontological works and meditations in transformative and cross-cultural ways for a fuller realisation of going beyond both the limits of the epistemic as well as Eurocentrism. It also explores pathways of multi-topial hermeneutics and transpositional subjectobjectivity which involves foot-walking and foot-meditative interpretation across multiple cultures and traditions of the world.

Keywords: Epistemologies from the South; Boaventura de Sousa Santos; ontological epistemology of participation; post-positivism; multi-topial hermeneutics; planetary realisations