

# Global Inequalities in Knowledge Distribution and Production: Implications for Universities

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Knowledge is Power  
**PRIA**

# Overview

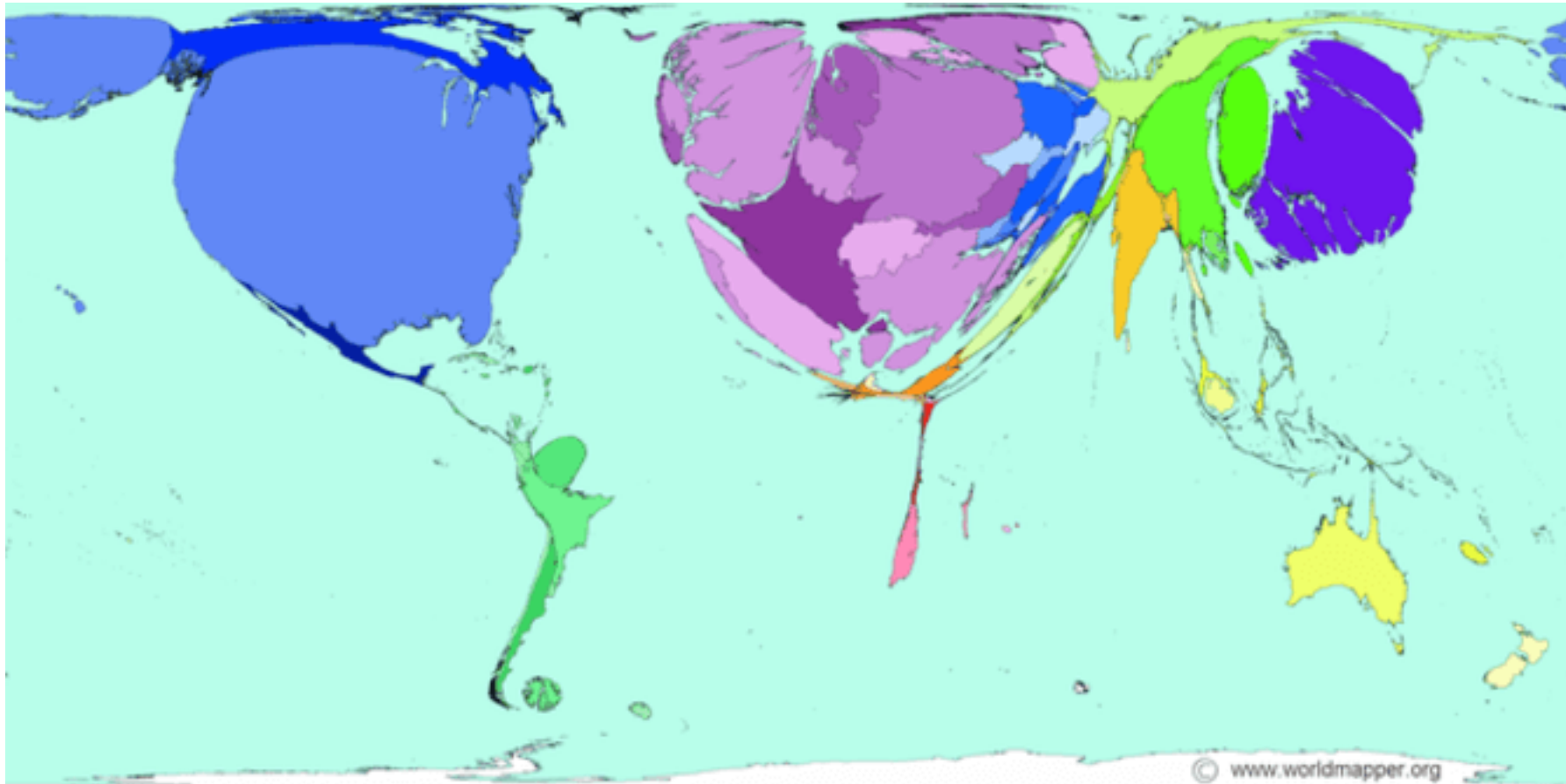
❖ **Global knowledge inequalities**

❖ **How to account for these inequalities?**

❖ **What can be done?-buzz groups**

❖ **Opportunities for the Association of Commonwealth Universities?  
(Group generating ideas)**

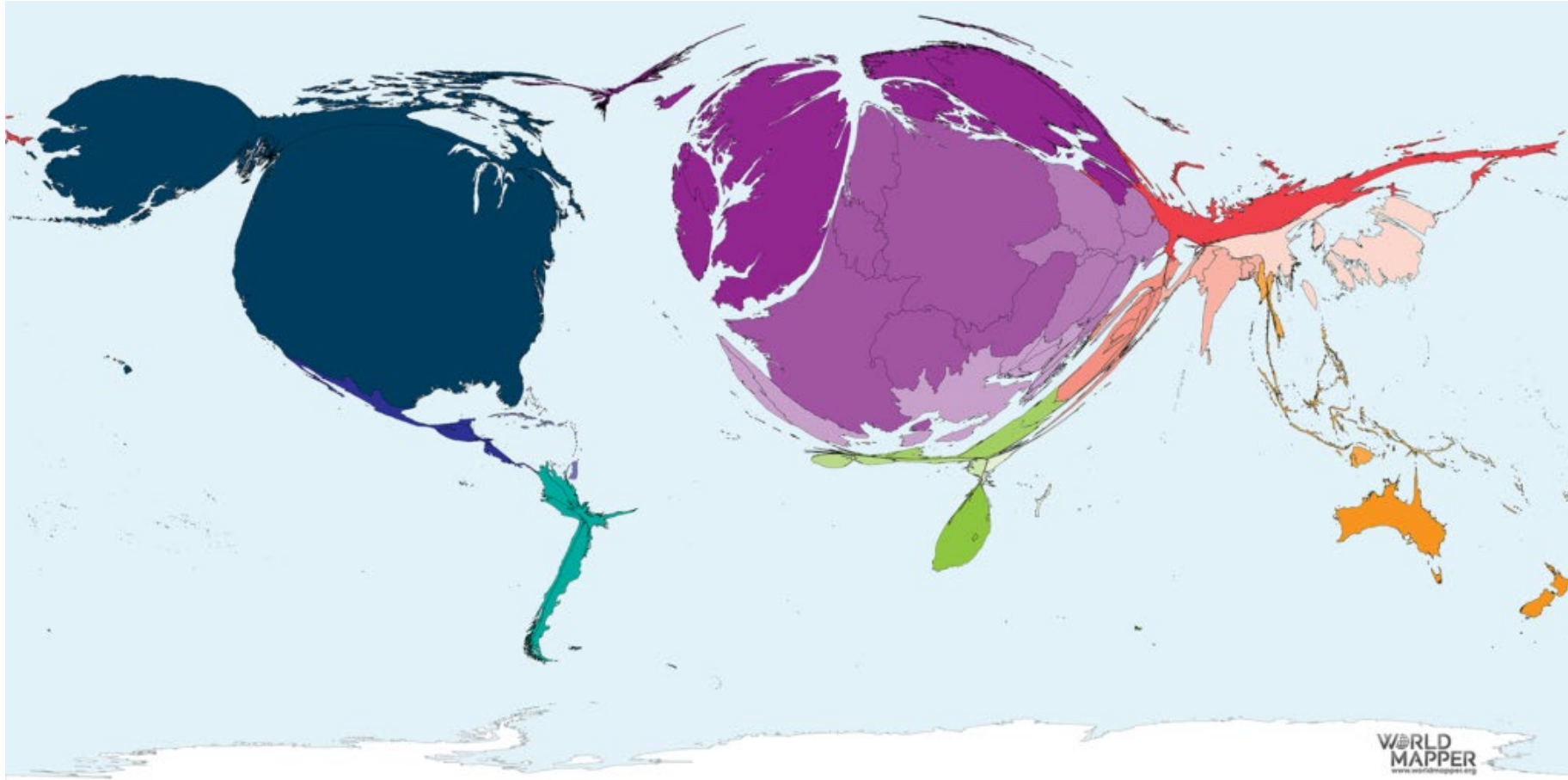
# Global Production of Academic Knowledge



# Top 25 social science publications cited in Google Scholar

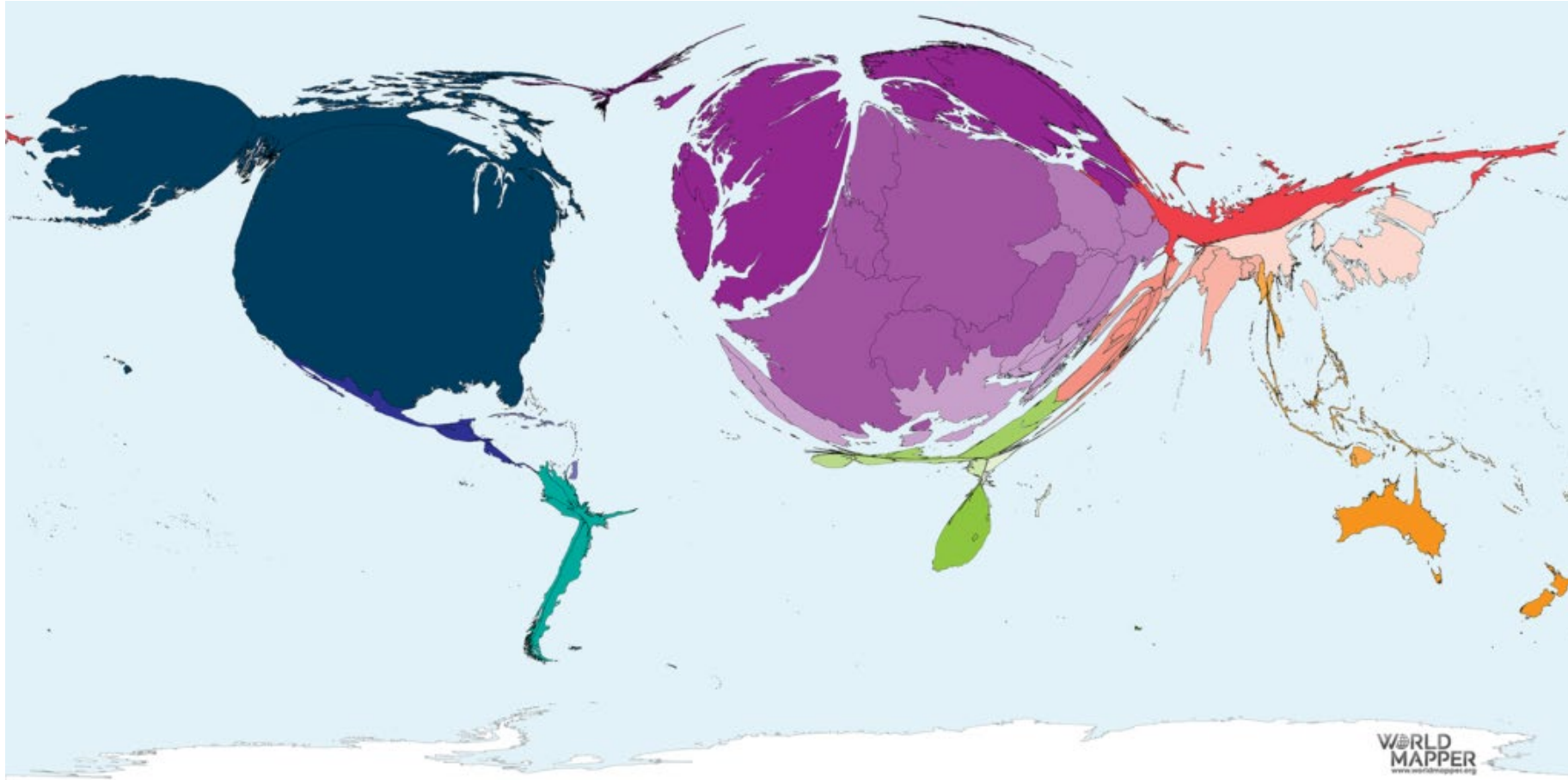
Book	Author	Date*	Discipline	Citations
The Structure of Scientific Revolutions	Thomas Kuhn	1962	Philosophy	81,311
Diffusion of Innovations	Everett Rogers	1962	Sociology	72,780
Pedagogy of the Oppressed	Paulo Freire	1968/1970	Education	72,359
Competitive Strategy	Michael E Porter	1980	Economics	65,406
Imagined Communities	Benedict Anderson	1983	Political Science	64,167
Mind in Society	LS Vygotsky	1978	Psychology	63,809
Discipline and Punish	Michel Foucault	1976/1977	Philosophy	60,700
A Theory of Justice	John Rawls	1971	Political Science	58,594
Social Foundations of Thought and Action	Albert Bandura	1986	Psychology	55,324
The Interpretation of Cultures	Clifford Geertz	1973	Anthropology	48,984
The History of Sexuality (3 Volumes)	Michel Foucault	1978-1986	Philosophy	47,955
Situated Learning: Legitimate Peripheral Participation	Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger	1991	Education	47,627
The Fifth Discipline	Peter M Senge	1992	Management	43,876
Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance	Douglass North	1990	Economics	43,411
Culture's Consequences	Geert Hofstede	1980	Management	42,144
The Presentation of the Self in Everyday Life	Erving Goffman	1959	Sociology	40,573
Das Kapital	Karl Marx	1867-1894	Economics	40,237
Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste	Pierre Bourdieu	1984	Sociology	39,729
The Social Construction of Reality	Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann	1966	Sociology	38,845
Metaphors We Live By	George Lakoff and Mark Johnson	1980	Linguistics	38,723
Stress, Appraisal and Coping	Richard Lazarus and Susan Folkman	1984	Psychology	38,665
Communities of Practice	Etienne Wenger	1999	Psychology	37,775
The Economic Institutions of Capitalism	Oliver Williamson	1985	Economics	37,651
Motivation and Personality	Abraham Maslow	1954	Psychology	37,614
Attachment	John Bowlby	1969	Psychology	37,318

# Science Papers published - 2016

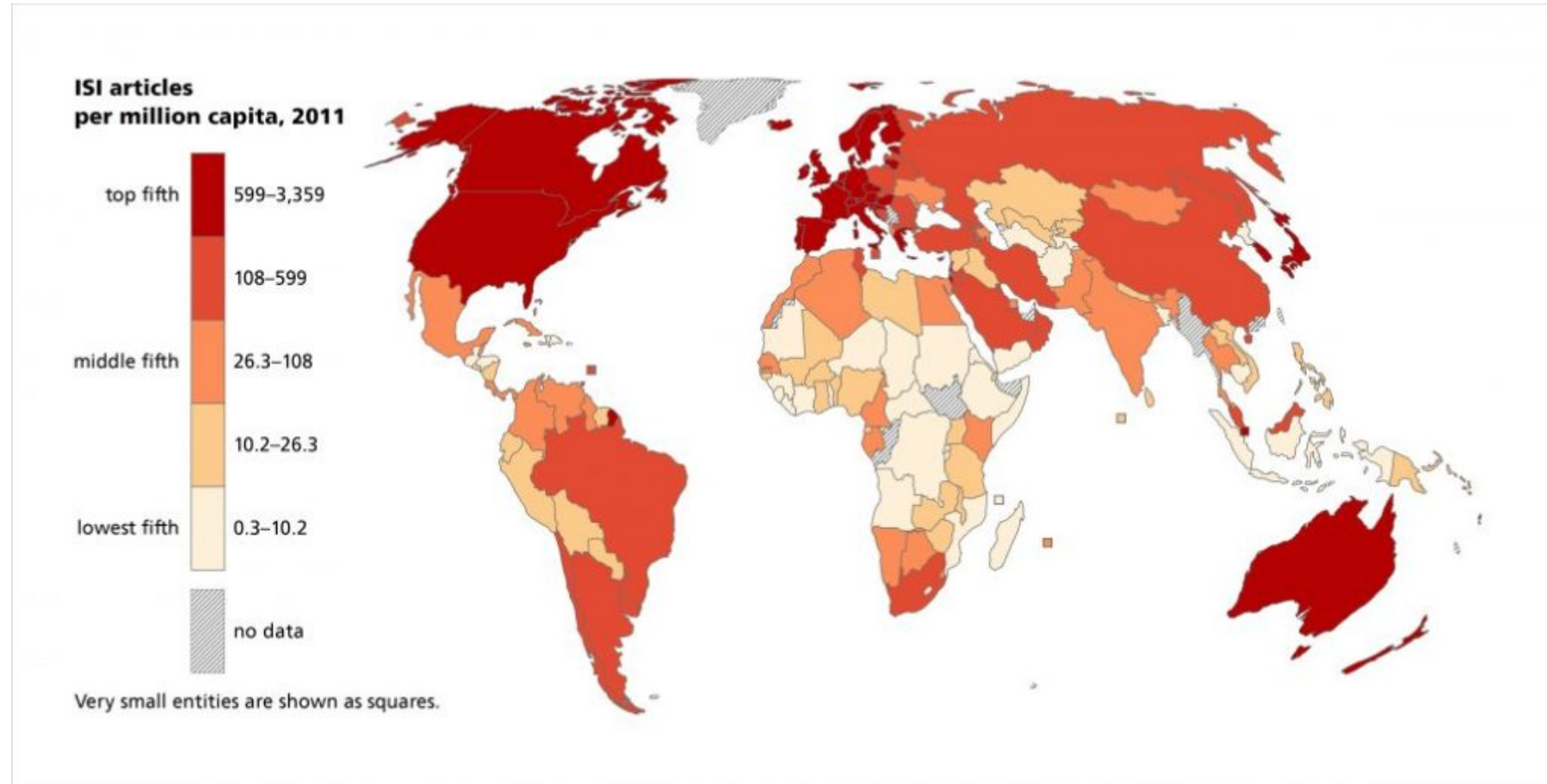




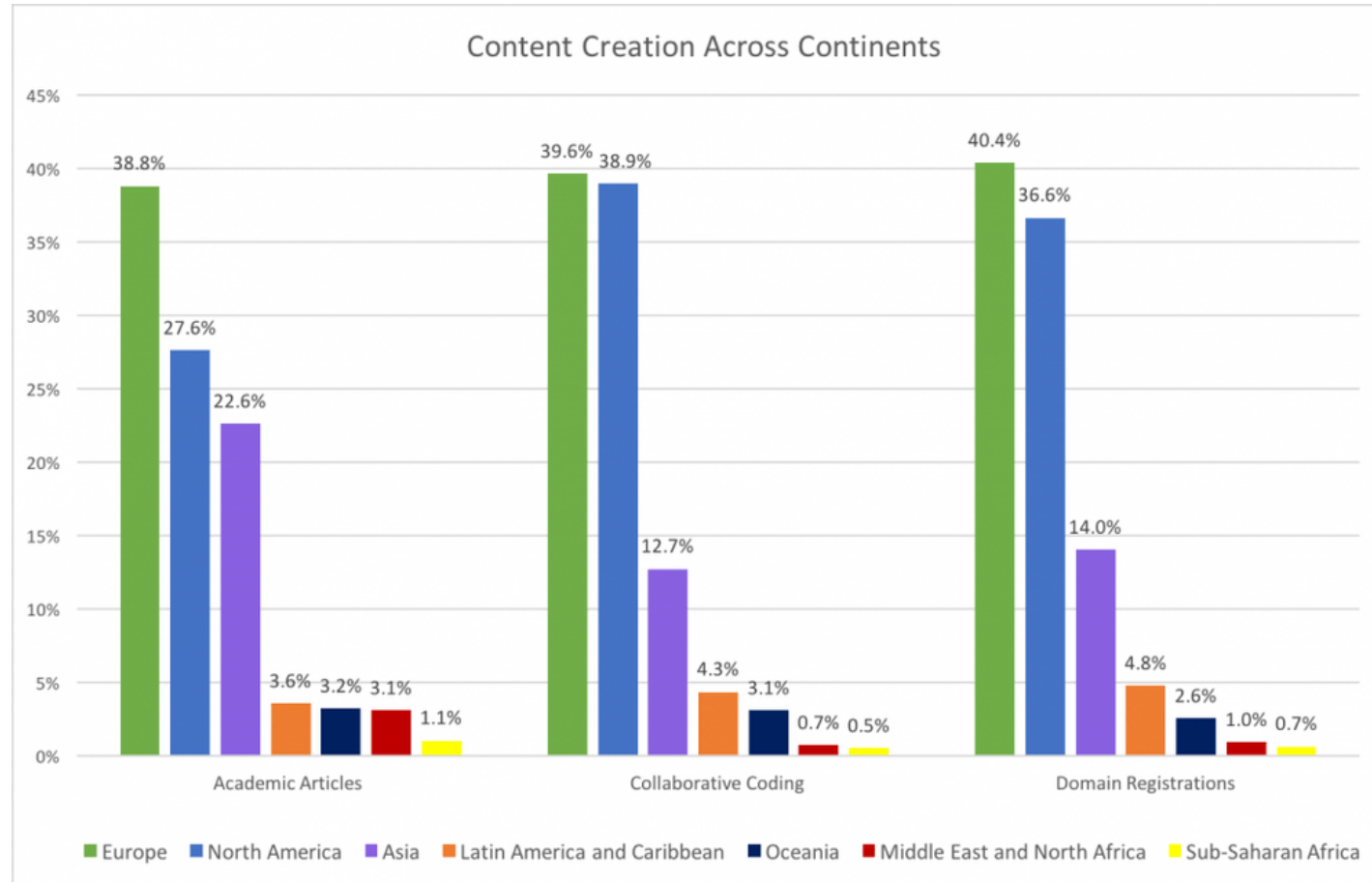
# Nobel Prize Laureates 1901-2018



# ISI articles per million capita



# Inequality of knowledge production





# What accounts for these inequalities?

- A history of epistemicide (de Sousa Santos)
- Role of ranking systems
- Availability of research funding
- Differential work loads
- Market priced academic publications
- Language vulnerabilities

# Epistemicide

- Four epistemicides of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century (Grosfoguel)
- Indigenous ways of knowing (Canada)
- African Indigenous knowledge (Wangoola and Odara-Hopper)

# Role of university ranking systems

- Drives all universities towards Western (English languages) and unattainable models
- Contributes to the decline of journals in languages of the global South (except China)
- Contributes to a colonising knowledge culture
- Negatively impacts applied, public, arts-based and other creative forms of knowledge sharing

# Uneven availability of research funding

- State supported research granting councils have grown significantly in the OECD nation states
- Africa, Latin America, many countries in Asia have very modest if any national sources for research funding
- International funding such as the Grand Challenges Funds in the UK and other similar sources in the global North *for the most part* require Pis from the UK or other richer nations

# Differential academic work loads/salaries

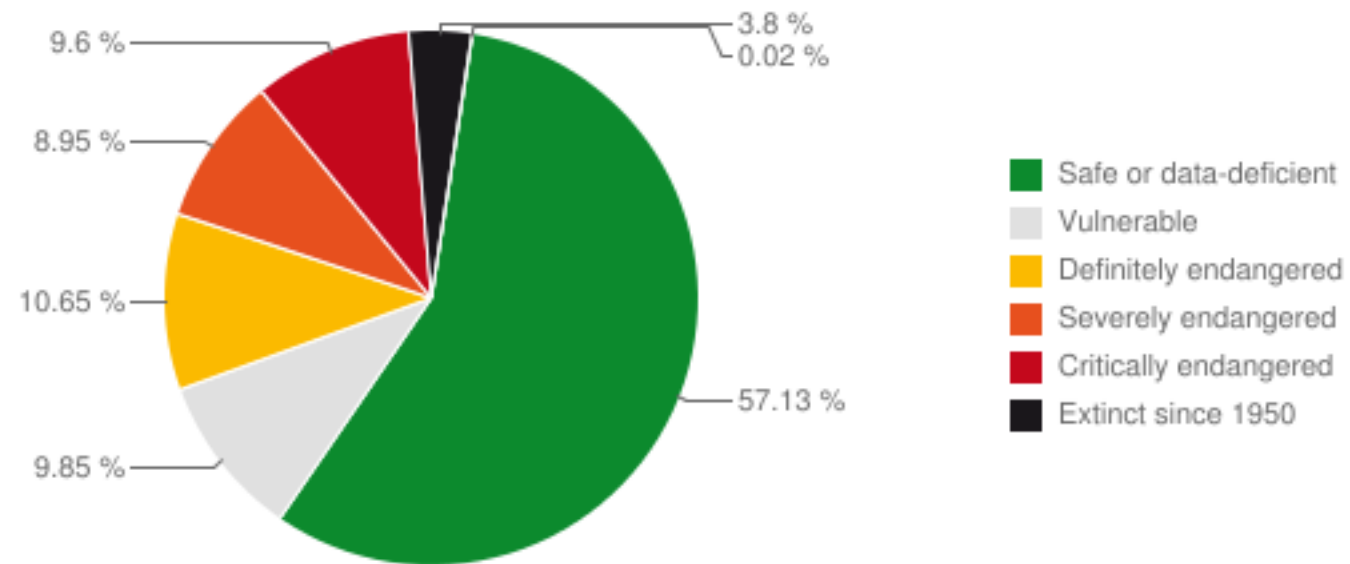
- Salaries are much lower in all universities of the global South
- Many academics take on other jobs to make ends meet
- In addition they teach on average many more hours/week than do academics particularly in the research intensive universities
- Funding that they may get is nearly always linked to partnerships with universities in the global North where the theme of the work is dictated by the Northern researcher



# Impact of market priced knowledge distribution

- The market based academic publishing industry promotes a model that exploits all academic labour even as it prices books, journals and other materials out of the hands of the vast majority of scholars in the global South let alone students.
- The web of control of academic knowledge grows tighter and more monopolistic by the month (Leslie Chan)
- National/local publishers are being forced out of the picture

# Vitality of the World's Languages



## Franz Fanon - 1962

- “my friends, the European game is definitely over...if we want to see humanity advance, for Africa and for the world, we need to invent and discover a new way of thinking”

# Boaventura de Sousa Santos

- “There will be no global social justice without global epistemic justice”

What can be done?

- With one or two persons near you discuss some ideas on what might be done to reduce inequalities – 7-8 minutes



Feed-back – Share 3-4 stories

# Could the ACU play a role?



# In your same groups of 3-4 persons

- Brainstorm some ways that a global network such as the ACU might contribute to democratising knowledge distribution