Session 12: Academic and Scientific Imperialism

Imperialism & Academic Knowledge Production
Colonialism, Missionaries, Universities

- Dominican Republic, Universidad Santo Tomás de Aquino (University of St. Thomas Aquinas, 1518/1538)
- Universidad de San Marcos (Lima, Peru, 1551)
- Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico (1551)
Defining Academic Imperialism

(1) executed and/or promoted by and through academic structures and knowledge production;
(2) shaped by and through ongoing processes of empire building and maintenance, and they carry the residues of empires that once were; and,
(3) academic behaviour that in and of itself and without reference to broader or more encompassing frameworks may be considered imperialistic. (adapted from Boyd-Barrett, 2015, p. 1, on media imperialism)

Is Academia Amenable to Cultural Imperialism?
Academic Agents as Imperialists

- Philanthropic foundations
- Faculty and student international exchange programs
- Metropolitan education, scholarships for foreign students
- Establishing universities, and branches in other countries
- Institutional Americanization: Hiring, Governance
- Professional associations—hegemonic AAA, traveling meetings
- Conferences as stock exchanges
- Publishers
- Circulation of books, articles, teaching technologies
- Comparability, rankings, gap, catching up (mimesis — “best practices”)
- Extraction
Academic Agents for Imperialism

→ Anthros, archaeologists as spies
→ CIA on campus
→ Project Camelot
→ Human Terrain System
→ Minerva Research Initiative
→ National Security Education Program (NSEP), the Intelligence Community Scholars Program (ICSP), the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program (PRISP)
→ START—Homeland Security Act of 2002:

“The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall designate a university-based center or several university-based centers for homeland security. The purpose of the center or these centers shall be to establish a coordinated, university-based system to enhance the nation’s homeland security”

→ ROTC