

# **Globalising African Sexualities Research in the Age of AIDS and Renewed Patriarchies:**

**African Feminists Speak Out**

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Social science that makes a difference



**Welcome  
to the 2009 HSRC Women's Day  
Seminar**

Social science that makes a difference



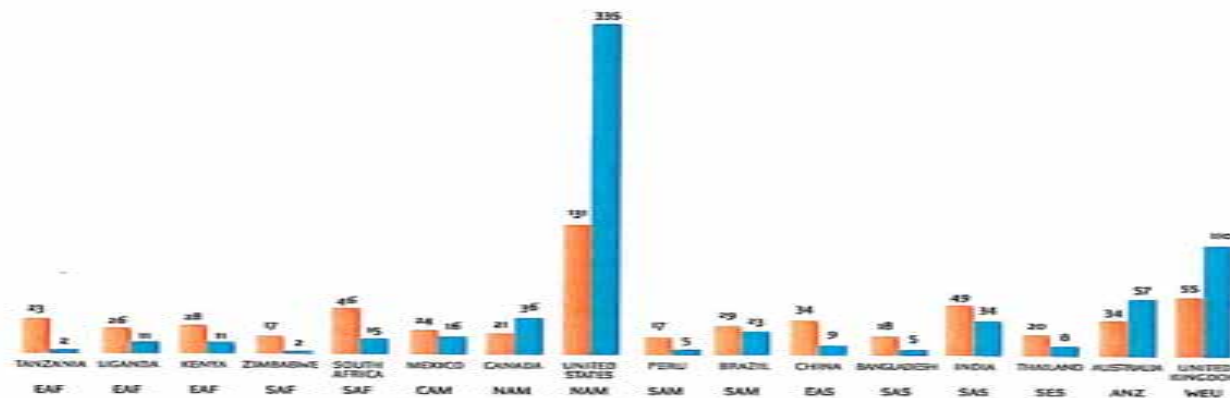
## A little context...

- Africa as a research focus and site, particularly around sexualities and HIV/Aids
- Who are the scholars (Their epistemologies and ontologies)?
- To illustrate: Research conducted by ESE:O, Chile (2007):
  - Unequal distribution of power in knowledge production and dissemination

# Who is writing about who?

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY QUANTITY OF AUTHORS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

■ Frequency of articles that involve the country      ■ Quantity of authors originating from that country



Source: K. S. S. S. S. S.

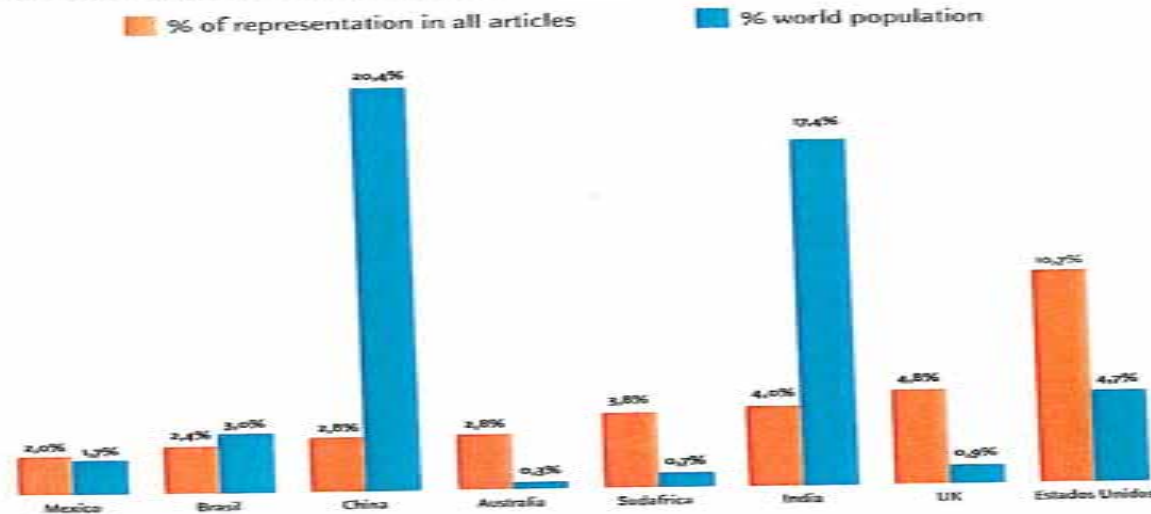
## Distribution of "locally produced knowledge" and authorship

To analyze the relationship between what we call "locally-produced knowledge" or "situated knowledge" and the author's country, we attempt to identify the inclusion of subjects from a local perspective. The graph shows the relationship between the quantity of articles about a given country and the amount of authors located in that country.

The graph reveals that there is almost a duplication of authors by the quantity of articles whose subject is the author's country (for example, the US has 2.5 authors per article; the UK 1.8; Australia 1.6). This can be contrasted with other countries in which the number of local authors compared to the number of articles that report on that country is very small (for example Uganda has 0.39 local authors per article, Bangladesh 0.27 and Tanzania has only 0.08 local authors).

# Where are the resources for knowledge production?

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN ALL ARTICLES COMPARED TO PERCENTAGE OF WORLD POPULATION



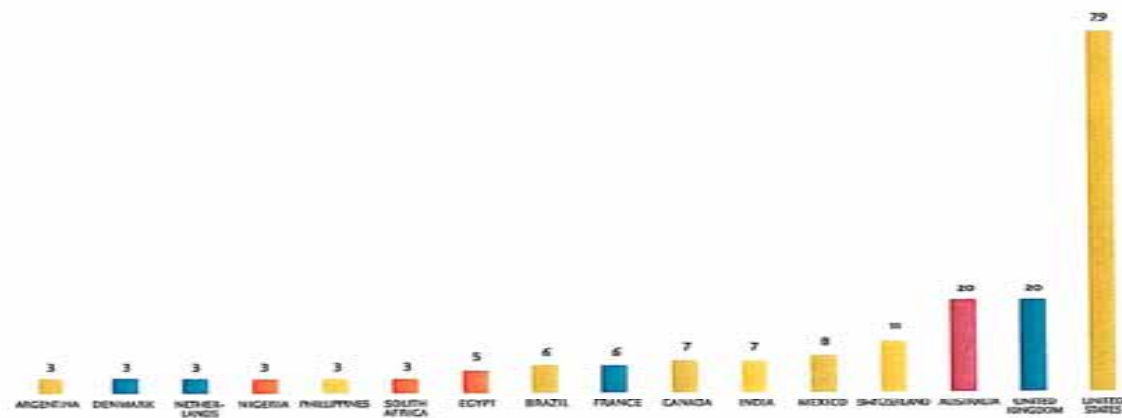
Journal ESH 2017

Our research showed that even though Asia is significantly represented, its correlation, considering its demographic statistics, is actually very low. The graphics illustrate this by contrasting the cases of China and Australia.

China represents 20,4% of the world population. However, it has the same representation as Australia, which has only 0,3% of the world population. This inequality may also be explained by the preeminence of English, which facilitates the ability of authors from countries where English is spoken to publish in the leading journals.

# Who decides what knowledge is of most worth?

COUNTRIES BY QUANTITY OF MEMBERS ON THE EDITORIAL BOARD  
(ONLY COUNTRIES WITH MORE THAN THREE REPRESENTATIVES)



Source: IJEH Group

If we compare this majority presence of editors from English-speaking countries with the countries which are the subject of study in the articles, we see that there is an exact correlation. That is, the countries studied in the articles and those where editorial board membership is concentrated are all predominantly English-speaking.

By correlating English language, the powerful position of the editors and the circulation of pertinent knowledge, this analysis demonstrates a clear lack of logodiversity in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender and sexuality. According to these statistics, the power of editors affects and is reflected in their journals' publication policies.

# Purpose of the seminar

- Interrogate the issues from a variety of perspectives;
- Articulate African feminist alternatives to researching sexualities in the “South” by the “South” and with the “North”;
- Identify implications for conducting research into sexualities in the context of key programmatic areas in our developing democracy at practical, theoretical and policy level.
  - Introducing two key people: Dr Nadia Sanger (introducing the panelists) and Prof. Catherine Burns (moderating)