GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT THROUGH A SOCIAL JUSTICE LENS

Robert N. Coffey, Jr.
Doctoral Candidate
Higher, Adult & Lifelong Education
In 20 minutes...

- *Globalization*, defined (at least for today)
- *Globalization*: the good, the bad, and the ugly
- The imperative for HE to globalize
- Global scholarly engagement as both a response to the ideals of ES and to globalization
- Q: How do we ensure our global ES activities align with our values?
- Discussion
What comes to mind when you think of globalization
Globalization, defined (for today)

“the flow of technology, economy, knowledge, people, values [and] ideas...across borders” (Knight, 1999)
Five fundamental freedoms (Loungani, 2007)

• Being able to cross national boundaries (immigration);
• The freedom to sell what you produce at home and abroad; and to buy products from all around the globe (international trade);
• The freedom to seek capital from foreign sources and to invest your savings (capital mobility);
• The spread of scientific knowledge and technology;
• The diffusion of ideas, culture, and cuisines.
Globalization of talent and ideas

“Globalization...poses myriad challenges and presents numerous opportunities...There’s no substitute for pulling together the best minds and the most talented researchers from around the world.” (Block, 2012)
Globalization: global problems, global solutions

“Global issues, such as climate change, potential pandemics, bio-diversity, and food, water and energy security, need global approaches.” (Smith, 2011)
Globalization concentrates power

“Globalization makes the rich richer, guarantees the perpetuation of privilege, and maintains the caprices of the moneyed over the very survival of those without it.” (Yang, 2003)
Globalization and higher education

Internationalization: “the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions, or delivery of postsecondary education” (Knight, 1999)

Why do colleges and universities seek to internationalize?
Globalization concentrates power

“The benefits of globalization have been distributed asymmetrically, disadvantaging not just the developing nations, but also the English-speaking developed nations...” (Marginson, 2009)

“[M]ore than two-thirds of the top one hundred research universities are in English-speaking nations.” (Marginson, 2009)
Engaged scholarship (Van de Ven, 2008)

• “A form of inquiry where researchers involve others and leverage their different perspectives to learn about a problem domain”
• “A relationship involving negotiation, mutual respect, and collaboration to produce a learning community”
• “Studying complex problems with and/or for practitioners and other stakeholders”
Engaged scholarship (NERCHE)

• “defined by the collaboration between academics and individuals outside the academy - knowledge professionals and the lay public (local, regional/state, national, global) - for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.”
The global context for engaged scholarship

• “In this new century, our route will continue to evolve to reflect changing circumstances, but our destination will remain constant—creating sustainable prosperity for the common global good” – (Simon, 2010)
The global context for engaged scholarship

• “Fulfilling our aspirations and shared covenant with society requires dynamic and interconnected actions that extend across boundaries and borders.” (Simon, 2010)
The global context for engaged scholarship

- “Scholarship has to prove its worth not on its own terms but by service to the nation and the world” (Handlin, 1990)
• How can we ensure globally engaged scholarship – conducted within the context of globalization – aligns with ES principles, values, ethics?
Cultural humility (Turvalon & Murray-García, 1998)

- Lifelong commitment to self-evaluation and self-critique
- Redressing power imbalances
- Developing mutually beneficial and non-paternalistic partnerships with communities
References

THANK YOU!

Robert N. Coffey, Jr.
Doctoral Candidate
Higher, Adult & Lifelong Education
Michigan State University
coffeyr1@msu.edu