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Making Spaces for Internationalization and Indigenization

FAUBAI Canada-Brazil Preconference Workshop

Indigenization

- **Indigenization:** Conceptually, *indigenization* represents a move to expand the academy's still-narrow conceptions of knowledge, to include Indigenous perspectives in transformative ways.
- Ethically engage Indigenous communities and Indigenous knowledge systems.
- Largely motivated by Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (2015)



Indigenization at Canadian Universities

- Indigenization at Canadian HEI's means:
 - recruit and retain indigenous students
 - hire Indigenous faculty
 - create indigenous spaces
 - Strategic Plans on Indigenous Engagement
- 9.8% of Indigenous population in Canada has university degree compared to 27% non-aboriginal population.
- Consultation with Indigenous communities, elders and students about programming they would like
- Indigenous voices to university governance
 - Elders advisory councils
 - VP Provost for Indigenous Engagement



"It's important that students get to see Indigenous culture enacted, and see that it's a vibrant, living culture—not just something that's been talked about in class."

— Megan Caldwell, Aboriginal Student Advisor



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Challenges of Indigenization

- Avoid Pan-Indigenization (not a monolithic bloc)
- Indigenization is not just adding indigenous peoples to existing institutions.
- Indigenization needs to transform university structure—fully incorporate indigenous knowledge and values alongside western knowledge.
- Academic gatekeeping in scholarly activities, research, publications, promotion and tenure—the “small practices of the institution”

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Connections between Internationalization and Indigenization in Canada: Sharing Best Practices

Canada-Mexico Roundtable on Intercultural/Indigenous Higher Education

- Made up of 11 Canadian Universities working with the Indigenous Universities of Mexico. Started in 2012.
- Participants interact with local regional indigenous communities.
- Themes vary from year to year and explore topics of indigenous entrepreneurship, Indigenous maternal health, community engagement, etc.
- Challenges include language barriers, continuous funding sources, and different academic prerequisites in Mexico and Canada.



Connections between Internationalization and Indigenization in Canada

Universities Canada principles on Indigenous education

- 97 Canadian universities in close consultation with Indigenous communities
- 13 principles aiming to help Indigenous communities accomplish their goals of autonomy and self-determination
- Closing current education gaps

Canadian Tri-Agencies Canada Research Coordinating Committee

- Consultation process with First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples
- 14 events across the country (reflecting elders and knowledge keepers, students, women's groups etc.)
- Policy document to come with best practices/"recommendations" to strengthen Indigenous research capacity.



Connections between Internationalization and Indigenization in Canada: Mobility Programs

Fulbright Canada programs centered on Indigenous peoples

- Fulbright Visiting Research Chairs focusing on Indigenous issues
- Young Indigenous Leaders Program

CONACyT Academic Capacity Program for Indigenous Women

- Scholarships for Mexican women of indigenous background to undertake graduate studies in Mexico or abroad.
 - (Lakehead University and University of Lethbridge have received large cohorts of students).



Indigenization and Internationalization: Synergies and Challenges

- Both seek to embed knowledge systems, cultural values and perspectives into core university business.
- Both advocate for transformation of higher education: concerned with mono-cultural perspectives in the Academy.
- Internationalization seen often through lens of economic globalization and soft power (not transformational)
- Indigenization frameworks of transformation in higher education are grounded in activist approaches, fighting against inequitable power relations.





Part II. Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions

1. What are the values that drive internationalization in Canada and Brazil?
2. What are the values that drive indigenization in Canada and Brazil?
3. What are the synergies/commonalities between Internationalization and Indigenization? Are they natural allies?
4. Challenges and opportunities of creating more dialogue/ knowledge exchange/programs on indigenous issues between Canada and Brazil?





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Part III. Feedback and Conversations



THANK YOU

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