

Reflections From the South

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I was most appreciative of the organizing committee's invitation to participate in this discussion about such exciting and timely issues in the publishing globalized world. In particular, I would like to make reference to the champions on this special panel. Dr. Peggy L. Chinn is a prominent personality on the international scene. Her work is well known in Brazil. During my own PhD studies in the philosophy of nursing, translations and discussions of Peggy's journal, *Advances in Nursing Science*, were given much emphasis. So it became a very pleasant moment for me to join her on this panel. The second champion is Dr. Sally Thorne, a prominent researcher whose very provocative proposals have mobilized the researchers of our profession in various parts of the world. As the editor of *Nursing Inquiry*, she creates enlarged discussions with her international editorial board that contribute in a very special way to exchanges of ideas on editorial policy.

Brazil currently ranks as an emerging country in the world of the privileged nations. It intends to take its place in the world as a republic with the full capacity to participate in international negotiations and to become a vital part of global decision-making bodies such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations. In the nursing world, Brazil has a vibrant tradition of publishing. At present around 30 journals specific to the profession are published in Brazil, the oldest being the *Brazilian Nursing Journal*, founded in 1932. However, only four of Brazil's nursing journals have been indexed in the Web of Science since 2008. Among them, the *Latin-American Journal of Nursing* has the highest impact factor (0.625 in 2011).

It is important to highlight *Nursing in Focus*, which is the official journal of the Federal Council of Nursing of Brazil, founded in 2010. It is recognized by the academic community as one of the most important nursing journals in Brazil. It is available in print and online free of charge. The print version is distributed by mail to all International Council of Nurses members residing in Brazil (Mancía, de Pires, Felli, Lopes Neto, & Forta, 2012).

In response to the Chinn and Thorne discussion papers, I have selected for consideration three ideas that are linked to the conditions of having been colonized by Anglo-American Western countries. These are language, issues of interest, and common strategies.

Language

Language is the major problem for speakers and writers when they want to communicate in English to a globalized world about their scientific productions. In Brazil, we try to be part of this world. To accomplish this, we have established a number of strategies, including publishing our journals in English, in both print and on the Web, and indexing our journals in international databases, especially those that are recognized by the English-dominant countries. We do this with the expectation that these products might be accepted by the English-dominant world, although inside our country it brings about decreased access to these ideas of our national readers (Mancía & Gastaldo, 2004). Is this fair?

We also promote our journals in other countries, and invite internationally acclaimed researchers to join our editorial boards as reviewers and writers, because it sheds light on our journals. The fact that we have foreign reviewers as members of our editorial boards increases the possibility of having them write for our journals and, because of this, motivating other researchers to submit to our journals. Therefore, our journals will have a better position on the international scene as well as nationally. Publishing our journals in English has begun to show that we are headed in the right direction because it allows us to enter the world of the impact factor, the metric that models the world's publishing standards. Some of our journals have already been included on the *Journal Citation Reports* list due to English citations. Thus, by excluding some we have included others, and this remains a complex policy debate for us.

Issues of Interest

Despite the diversity of issues that we think ought to have global penetration, some of them are not interesting to high impact factor journals. We notice that issues that are highly relevant for a developing country are sometimes not considered important or interesting to an international audience as determined from the perspective of those in Western countries. While we use the language of the “international audience,” it is not always clear what an international audience is. Thus, one might argue that this “international audience” becomes an underlying criterion of exclusion for what is not centric for both the colonizers and the colonized, who often look at what is set in stone through a similar lens.

We begin to see some resistance to that centre-ized view when researchers from developing countries have the opportunity to publish their papers in Anglo-American journals. From my point of view, some journals have been quite interested in publishing reports of work on AIDS, tuberculosis, and other neglected diseases in Brazil, because the practices that have been developed in our context are often cheaper and

more efficient approaches to health care than what Westernized systems can envision. These kinds of reports seem to stand the best chance of arousing interest among readers in developed countries as the challenge to the health sector has been growing worldwide. We hope that these issues as seen from a Brazilian perspective contribute to a better understanding of those diseases as they are currently experiencing a resurgence in developed countries.

Common Strategies for Decreasing the Differences

Although the global dialogue we are proposing at the moment embraces some of the important tensions that distinguish the English-dominant Western nations from those looking in, there are numerous paradoxes and problems to be considered. Issues such as the political and cultural regional differences between us or variations in professional issues and ethical models might at first seem to be setting the rules that will be the path to publishing. In fact, from my perspective this is an illusion. It seems an obvious reality that scientific production is recognized only if and when it is published in high impact factor journals and it is only on this basis that researchers are rewarded by their institutions. This situation creates the standard for scientific production that is driven by an endless and challenging dialectic. As for the world community of nursing editors, it is fascinating to consider that we are all driven by a certain vision of strength that leads us towards high impact factor journals. So, from this point of view, one might say that colonizers and colonized are entwined together, sharing the same aspirations, either to be high impact factor journals or to publish in them. The irony of this situation gives us much to think about, and I welcome the ongoing conversation!

References

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