

Science without centre? Resistance against the domination of the centre in academic peripheries

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This dissertation is a philosophical reconstruction of the specifics of academic resistance to the domination of the academic centre in the periphery of knowledge production systems. The following five chapters develop a methodological perspective on the study of science through world-system analysis. The novelty of the dissertation comes from reinterpreting world-system analysis as focused on strategies of resistance rather than on mechanisms of domination. The dissertation's examination of specific historical examples of academic resistance made it possible to propose and develop the concepts of "imagined anti-systemic geography" and "infrapolitical theorizing."

The first two chapters of the dissertation discuss world-system analysis and its applications to the study of science. The first discusses the role played by reflection on science in the work of Immanuel Wallerstein. The chapter then presents various conceptualizations of the centre and periphery of science and their critiques. The chapter highlights the fact that insufficient attention has been paid to the problem of resistance in previous discussions. The second chapter formulates the principles of a study focused on academic resistance. It then discusses the limitations of the Wallerstein's concept of anti-systemic movements. Further, it elaborates on the propositions present in recent research conducted from a world-system perspective, pointing out that Wallerstein's approach should be complemented by analyses of everyday resistance, which can be better grasped by the James C. Scott's notion of infrapolitics.

In the third chapter, these considerations are combined with a reflection on four ways of describing the region of Eastern Europe. The first way uses a similar set of means as the discourse of orientalism. The second looks at Eastern Europe and the USSR through the prism of the concept of totalitarianism. Both ways can co-create the image of a passive region where people are subjects to the established top-down power. Opposed to those ways are the descriptions of Eastern Europe as a Solidary Second World and as an empire of the periphery. The two views are complementary, and they have the advantage of allowing us to see the potential for international solidarity and the struggle against local imperialism.

The fourth chapter presents the historical case of the socialist student magazine "Simply" and more specifically its issues from 1947-1953. The reconstruction of the imagined geography constructed in the pages of the magazine during this period allowed to develop the concept of an anti-system imagined geography. The chapter shows that transnational social movements capable of challenging the existence of the capitalist system-world were imagined in the academic context in Poland.

The fifth chapter analyses the resistance of scientists to the peripheral position of Polish science in the years 1946-1956. The discussion of academic freedom, which took place between supporters of the liberal and socialist understanding of this freedom, is analysed. There is also an in-depth analysis of the works of Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz and Stanislaw Ossowski - the key theoreticians of academic independence during this period. On that base the notion of infrapolitical theorizing inspired by Scott's work, is developed. It allows us to

grasp the strategy of resistance used by Polish scholars who criticized the dependence of Polish science on the USSR, abstracting from most of its concrete manifestations.

The summary focuses on describing the tension between “anti-system imaginative geography” and “infrapolitical theorizing”. Infrapolitical theorizing often abstracts from the description of specific geopolitical issues, so it can marginalize the task of building an anti-system imaginary. However, this dissertation shows that the in-depth reflection on the various strategies of academic resistance, allows us to look for possible their possible synergy, instead of mutual exclusion.