

Whiteness as Futurity and Globalization of Higher Education

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Possibilities of relations and agency that:

- span, flow over, and/or ignore the nation-state
- include flows and disjunctures of culture, capital, technology, media, and non-HE transnational actors
- are mitigated locally with/in HE sector and institutions globally (Shahjahan, 2019; Sidhu, 2006; Marginson, 2011)

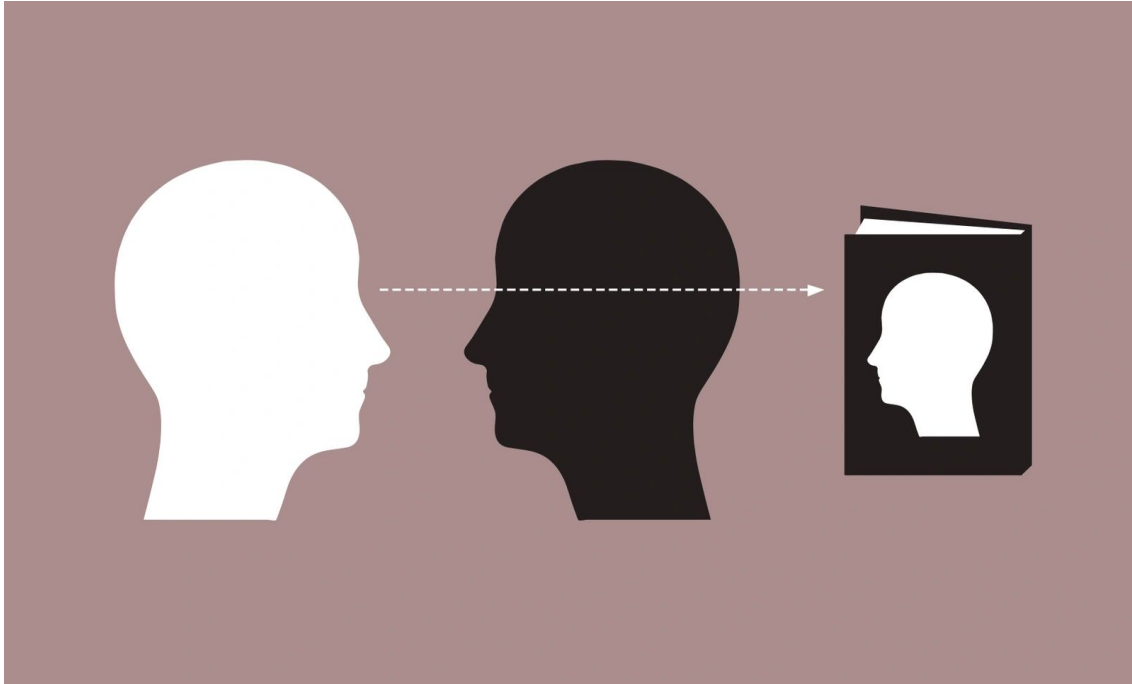
Our Focus and Argument

This paper focuses on the globalization of HE, specifically how whiteness shapes racial asymmetries and futurity orientation.

We argue that Whiteness as futurity colonizes (or orients) global subjects' imaginaries and reinforces the asymmetrical movements, networks, and untethered economies underpinning global HE.



Whiteness



- We are referring to a set of “narrative structural positions, rhetorical tropes and habits of perception” (Dyer, 1997, p. 12) that stands in for the normal.
- Whiteness is a state of knowing and being, that privileges white people, institutions, and cultural norms, and is a superstructure.
- Whiteness orients social and political environments towards the benefit and protection of white life (Ahmed, 2007).

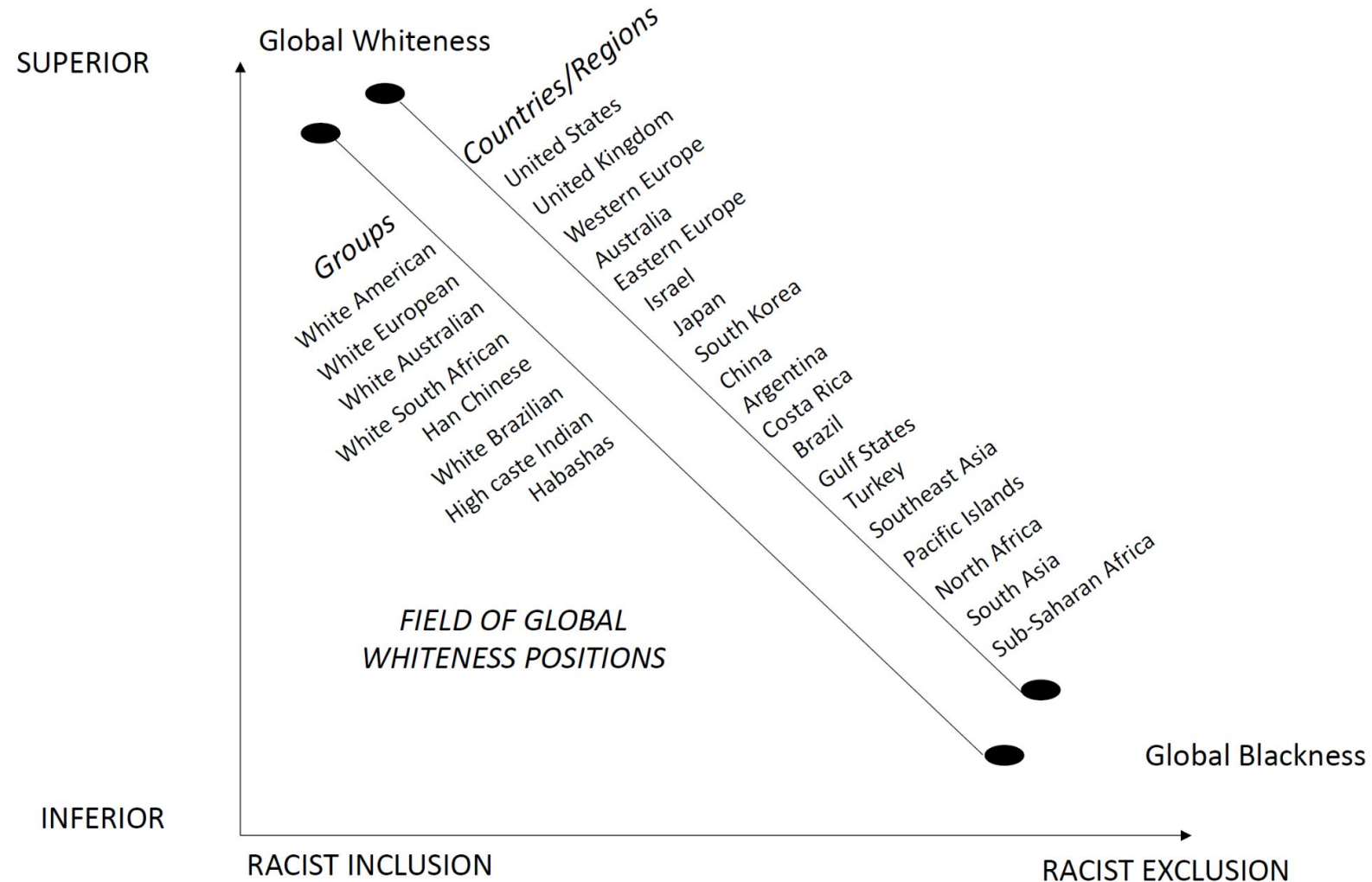
Whiteness as Futurity

We blend critical whiteness studies with temporal studies to offer a framework that details the three pathways in which globalization of whiteness governs the future:

- Whiteness as Producer and Foreclosure of Aspirations
- Whiteness as Investment
- Whiteness as Malleable

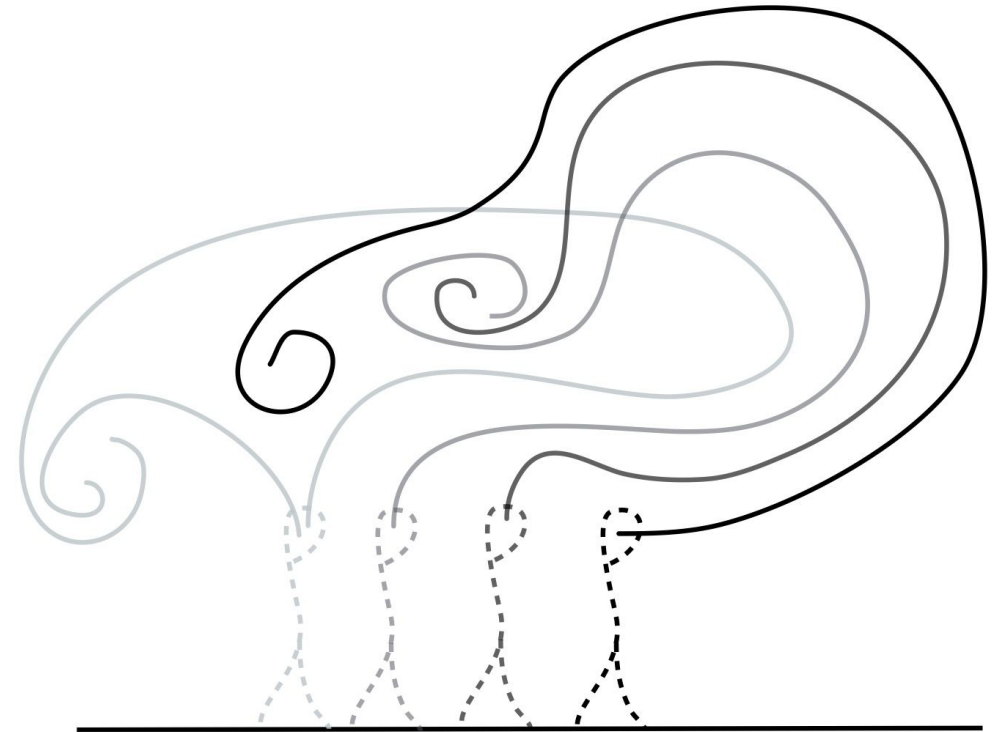


Global Field of Whiteness⁶ (Christian, 2019)



Whiteness as Producer and Foreclosure or Aspirations

- Preoccupation with a racist past (Baldwin, 2011), suggests a future resolution
- Obfuscating how the future (re)produces race and racism
- Global subjectivity & mobility push locales towards White aspirations/futures
- Examples: English language learning, ('Whitest' Whiteness), TOEFL, Comprehensive Research University



Whiteness as Investment

- Globalization of HE is a process of white investment expansion, a process that enhances predictive capacity (future-oriented practices and anticipatory logics).
- White bodies invest in a racialized value system (Whiteness) to secure material advantages (Lipsitz, 2006). Non-white bodies feel compelled to invest.
- Adoption of white parameters (e.g., curricula, language, mobility, etc.) allow marginalized nations and groups to participate in the global economy and increases dependency on imagined security.



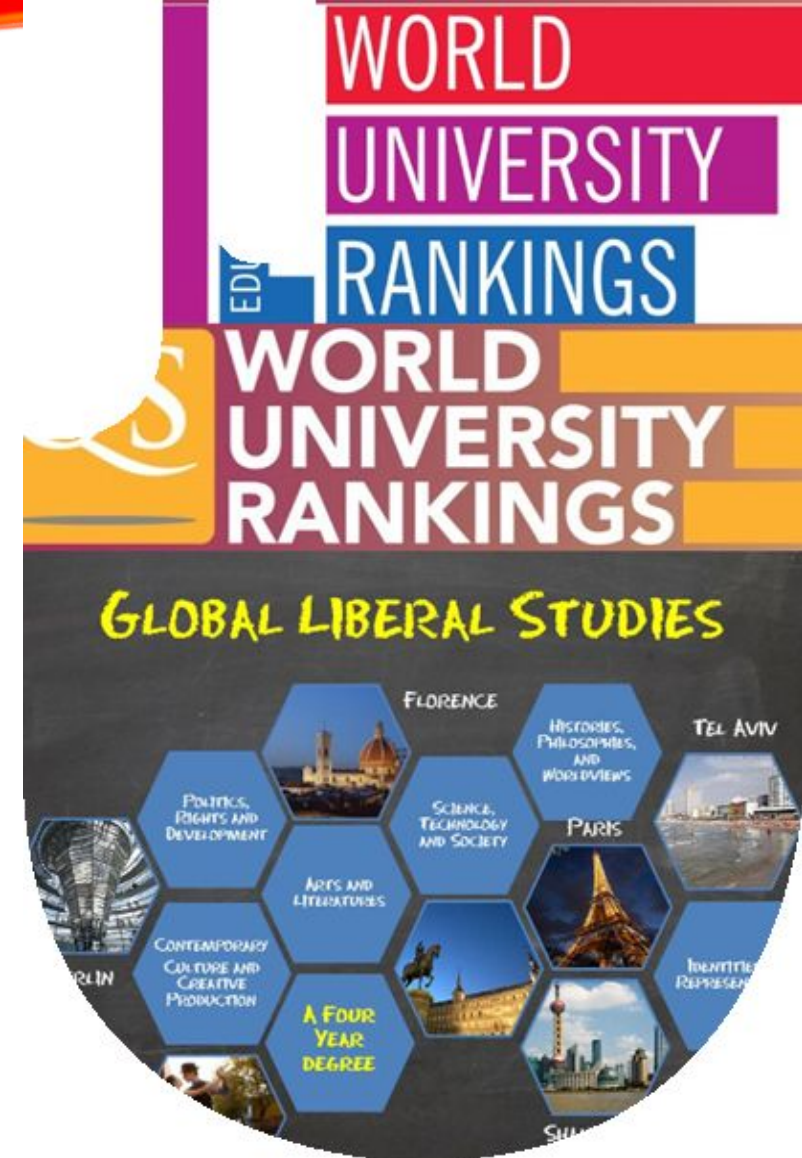
Whiteness as Malleable

- Whiteness is appealing to non-White bodies because it places objects/resources 'within reach' (Ahmed, 2007, p. 152)
- Whiteness is temporal, shifting from the past by accommodating local particularities/regional hierarchies to reproduce itself into the future (e.g., study abroad in the U.S.)
- While particular pursuits may end up as amalgamations between Western ideals and local customs, they begin from a White orientation, which protects the long-term security of Whiteness.



Our Analysis

Whiteness accesses and controls the future in two ways: a) the global diffusion of liberal education, and (b) growing use of global university rankings.



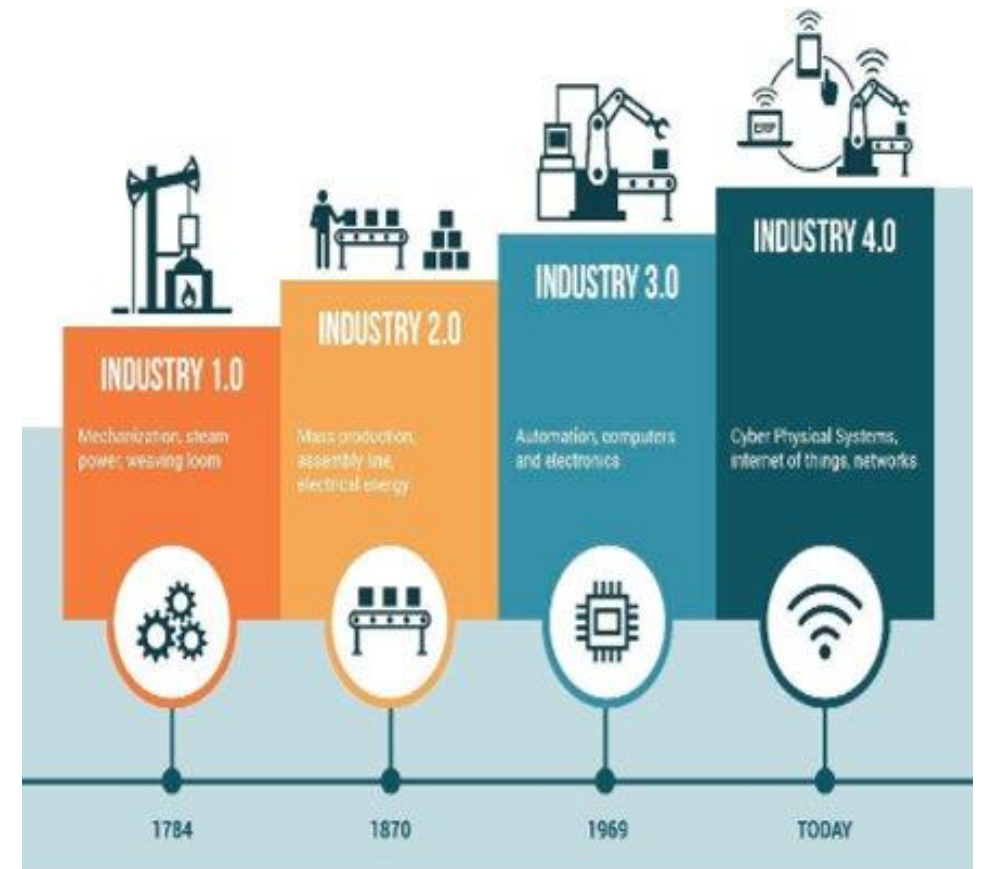
Liberal Education and White Futures

- Proliferation of liberal education in non-white regions
- Liberal education situates non-white subject in relation to Whiteness



Futurity and Liberal Education

- Liberal Education, Global Subject Aspirations, & Whiteness Orientation
- Liberal Education as Preparation for the 4IR (global marketplace)
- Assumption: Democratic Values Embedded in Liberal Education
Product: Perpetuation of "Racialized Hierarchies"



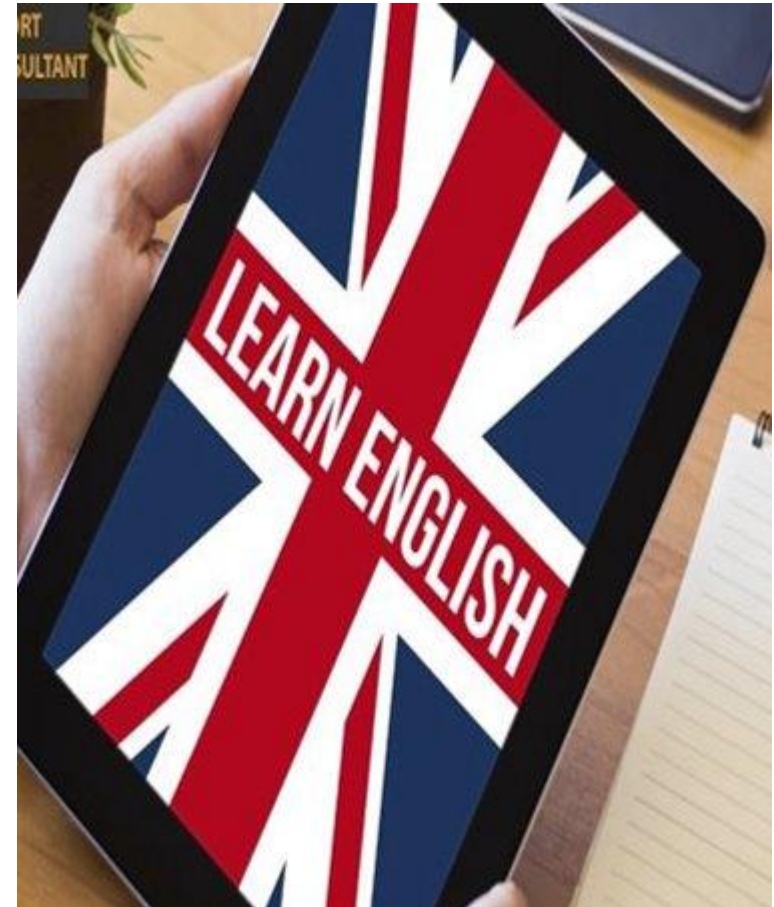
Futurity and Liberal Education

- Reproduces Classist Social Arrangements in Non-white Futures through Private and Elite Schooling
- Malleable Product that Accommodates Misaligned Value Systems & Appearing Accessible



Futurity and Liberal Education

- Non-white Investment in English, Protects White Futures
- Less Merit of Liberal Education, More Investment in Neoliberal Economies



Global university rankings (GURs) and future selves

- To become a global subject is to become White.
- GURs are oriented around and towards White bodies.



GURs and Whiteness Orientation

- GURs and White historical roots
- Future success in global HE rooted in Whiteness (e.g ARWU)
- Evident in who (or which bodies) succeeds in such rankings
 - a. Top ten in BIG 3 rankings similar (derived from Southern England and USA)



TABLE XL. THE SCIENTIFIC STRENGTH OF THE LEADING INSTITUTIONS

	Weighted Number.	Gain or Loss.
Harvard.....	146.0	+16.3
Chicago.....	94.6	+18.0
Columbia.....	79.3	-13.3
Hopkins.....	63.4	+ 4.2
Yale.....	61.7	+12.2
Cornell.....	57.6	+ 4.6
Wisconsin.....	49.0	+22.3
Geol. Survey.....	43.8	-12.2
Dept. Agric.....	40.9	- 4.9
Mass. Inst.....	37.7	+ 9.5
Michigan.....	37.1	- 3.5
California.....	32.4	- 5.0
Carnegie Inst.....	30.9	+19.4
Stanford.....	30.0	+ 4.8
Princeton.....	28.6	+ 7.5
Smithsonian Inst.....	26.0	- 7.3
Illinois.....	25.0	+16.7
Pennsylvania.....	24.4	- 4.5
Bur. of Standards.....	18.9	+ 0.1
Clark.....	16.0	+ 2.0

GURs and Whiteness Orientation

- National actors play catch up in GURs and claim to be 'world class'
- HEIs investment in Whiteness solidifies as institutions increasingly turn into or considered global subjects (and negating local missions/autonomy) (Ishikawa, 2009; Ordorika & Lloyd, 2014)



GURs and Whiteness as Investments

- Investment in internationalization efforts
 - a. recruitment of academic stars,
 - b. international collaboration efforts
 - c. English coursework
- What about non-White nations catching up in GURs?



CONCLUSION

- Globalization is a technology of race and temporality that cannot be easily separated
- Future orientations act like a mirror that reflects what this optimum future looks like, governing our present
- Critical whiteness studies: affect and visibility
- Consider transnational racialization process underpinning policies and practices in HE that have global faces (e.g. branding and mediatization of HE)
- Individuals in the Global North need to interrogate their global privileges even if they aren't white
- Consider the ultimate orientation governing the production of hybrids

References

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Questions/Comments