

TITLE

POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE: WEAVING STORIES OF DEHUMANIZATION, ERASURE AND RESISTANCE IN THE HIGHLANDS OF CHIAPAS

ABSTRACT

As a contribution to a critique of development studies this dissertation explores the politics of knowledge in the highlands of Chiapas, Mexico from a decolonial framework. It weaves stories of resistance to the violence of erasure of bodies marked by the colonial gender system. With a focus on advancing epistemic justice, it explores how two forms of violence intertwine: epistemicide (erasure of ways of knowing) and femicide (erasure of racialized-gendered-feminized bodies). Contributing to feminist theorizing on gender, place and the body, it builds bridges amongst different feminist theories – from black feminism, post-development to coloniality of gender. Importantly, it contributes to newly emerging methodologies and research practices that seek to decolonize academia through sentipensar (sensingthinking), encounters and weaving as methodological tools that challenge traditional forms of knowledge production in development studies. It also aims to bring the issues of body and gender violence into the ongoing critical analysis of modernity/coloniality by feminist, decolonial and post development scholars.