Studies in Knowledge Production and Participation

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Questions about the relationships among language and other semiotic resources (such as image, film/video, sound) and knowledge production, participation, and distribution are increasingly coming to the fore in the context of debates about globalisation, multilingualism, and new technologies.

Much of the existing work published on knowledge production has focused on formal academic/scientific knowledge; this knowledge is beginning to be produced and communicated via a much wider range of genres, modes, and media including, for example, blogs, wikis, and Twitter feeds, which have created new ways of producing and communicating knowledge, as well as opening up new ways of participating.

At the same time, the production of all kinds of vernacular knowledges has increased massively, with the number of people participating globally in production surpassing reception for the first time in history via (predominantly) a range of digital platforms. In this context there is evidence of shifting patterns of language use, including increasing multilingualism and translingualism. The development and uses of grassroots and indigenous knowledges are providing an important counterbalance to the dominant focus on knowledge generated through academic or research means. Fast-moving shifts in these domains prompt the need for this series which aims to explore facets of knowledge production including: what is counted as knowledge, how it is recognized and rewarded, and who has access to producing, distributing, and using knowledge(s).