

# CSDE 502 Research in LMICs

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### **Dividing the Globe**

- High Income Countries & Low- and Middle- Income Countries
  - World Bank definition of HICs: gross national income per capita of US \$13,589 or more in 2022
- Global North & Global South
  - North = "the West", i.e. US, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand
  - South = LMICs
- How different are these from "First World" (US and Allies), "Second World" (Communist countries), "Third World" (those whose people live on less than \$100 annually)?

## The (Hierarchical) Origins of Global Health

- Global health originated under the terms international health and tropical medicine
  - Kopan et al (2009): "an area for study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide"
- 2008 inaugural meeting of Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH)
  - the few participants from the Global South said "global health is Northern concept"
  - "for the academic institutions of the Global South, everyday public health, medical and nursing education and practices constitute "global health"
- What is public health and what is global health?
  - To whom? In the face of global infectious diseases?





#### **Global North & Global South Partnerships**

- What is **partnership?** 
  - Larkan et al (2016): "contextually relevant peer-to-peer collaborations which offer a platform for sharing knowledge and growing expertise globally, working towards a common goal, across disciplines and perspectives"
- However, there is still a directional aspect to most work
  - Money, research, "capacity building" resources move from the Global North to the Global South



#### Global North & Global South Partnerships

- Gaultier et al (2018) distinguish between levels of these "partnerships" in the following way
  - Macro-level: institutions
    - "Decolonization" drained resources from Africa → Global North to "save" the day
    - North to South funding transfers + humanitarian aid/charity
  - Meso-level: research teams
    - Global North researchers are PIs and develop projects/secure funding → Global South "partners" to collect data "in the field" → Global North researchers analyze and write

      Micro-level: individuals
- All reproduce the imbalance of power



# Rethinking Global North & Global South Partnerships (Gautier et al 2018)

- Deconstructing:
  - "examining in order to reveal the basis or composition of often with the intention of exposing biases, flaws, or inconsistencies"
- Macro-level: rethinking what the field of global health is
- Meso-level & micro-level: understanding the colonial history of global health, combating "brain drain", committing to one's own training and continued re-education

