

# **Decolonizing Research & Evaluation Through Tribal Critical Thinking Centers**

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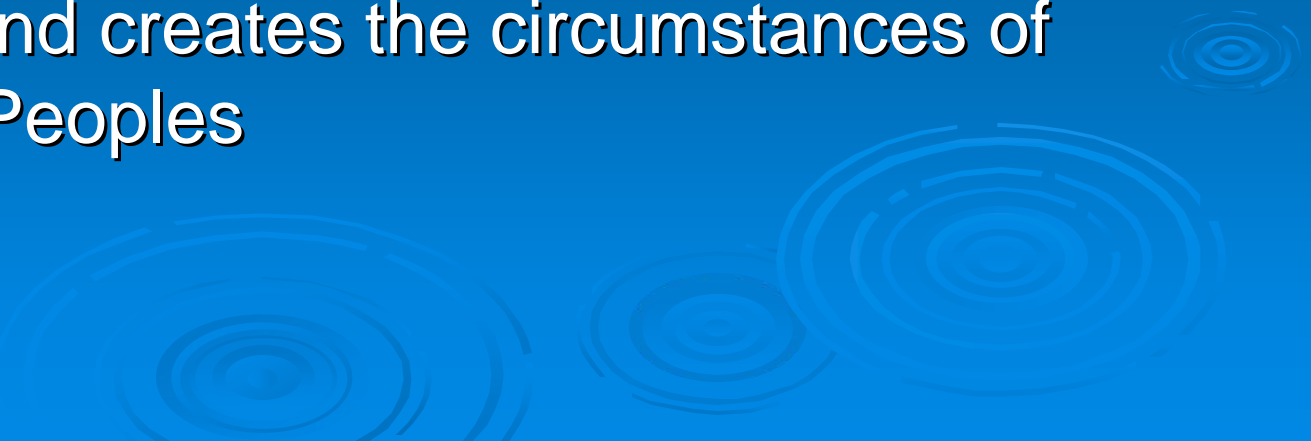


“The peak efficiency of knowledge and strategy is to make conflict altogether unnecessary.”

SUN TZU, The Art of War



## What do Researchers and Evaluate understand about colonization and decolonization?

- Most trained in mainstream methods which does not include a formal training and mastery of Critical and Intuitive Thinking
  - Most not trained to use colonization and decolonization as analytical frameworks for understanding how mainstream society oppresses and creates the circumstances of Indigenous Peoples
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## What do Researchers and Evaluate understand about colonization and decolonization?

- Most do not understand colonization - which is a process and institution that has intentionally blunted the critical and intuitive thinking of Indigenous Peoples – forcing a learned response - to “outsource thinking” to the colonizer.
- Most do not understand importance and methods of decolonization - which is aimed at helping build the master cognitive capacity and critical thinking of Indigenous Peoples

# What is Colonialism?

- “Is the subjugation of one group by another” (Robert J.C. Young, 2001).
- Since there are few compassionate colonizers, subjugation is often brutal, violent, and sustained until the colonizers reach a critical point (colonial criticality) of control over the colonized.

# Seven Stages of Colonization

(James Friederes, 1988)

1. Invasion
  2. Destruction
  3. External Political Control
  4. Economic Dependence
  5. Low Quality social services
  6. Social Interactions
  7. Racism
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- Through the various highs and lows of the subjugation period, the colonized experience extensive mortality and morbidity, loss of territory, destruction of political, social, and economic systems, and loss of control of their thinking, beliefs, and behavior.

# “Master-Slave” paradigm

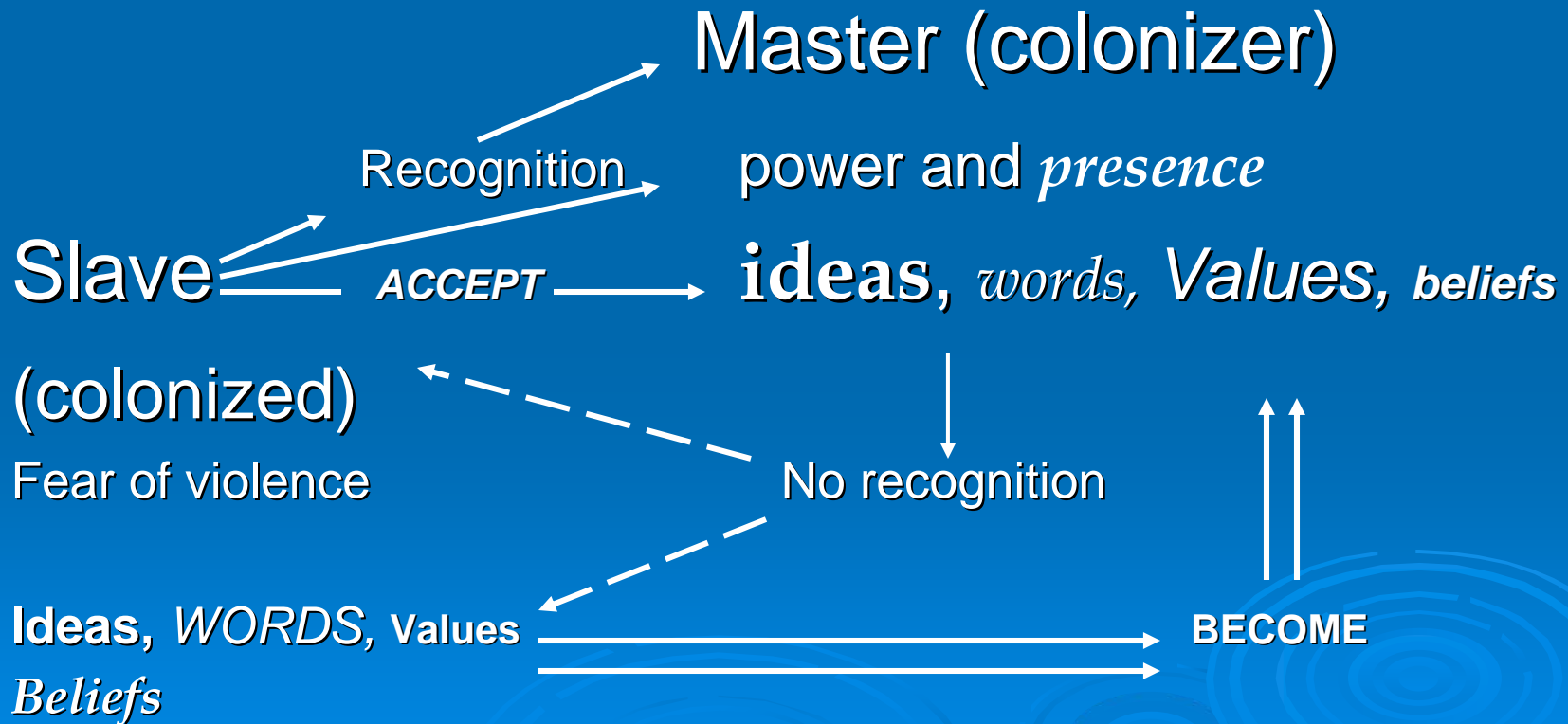
Hegel (1807)

- In the aftermath of colonization the relationship between the colonizers and the colonized becomes one of a Master and Slave.

# “Master-Slave” paradigm

Hegel (1807)

## Transactions In Colonial Society




# What triggers Colonization?

- It appears to be embedded within an individual and national avarice, racial supremacy, and a need for conquest and triumph over the uncivilized, untamed, hostile, and wild peoples and lands of the earth.
- Combination of selfish genes (racism, need for control, ignorance, greed) create the colonization gene

A colonial state that intends to maintain a Master-Slave paradigm cannot afford, or tolerate, an intellectual rebellion by the colonized.

Thus, the most effective means to maintain colonization is to prevent the colonized from developing intellectual autonomy and perseverance and high-level critical thinking, reasoning, and analyses.



# What is Decolonization?

- An *event* (understanding that you are colonized-Slave)
- A *process*:
  - (1) Creating and consciously using various strategies to liberate oneself from oppressive conditions,
  - (2) *Restoration* of cultural practices, *thinking*, beliefs, and values that were taken away or abandoned but are still relevant/necessary to the survival, and
  - (3) *Birth* of new ideas, *thinking*, technologies, and lifestyles that contribute the advancement and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples.

# What is Critical Thinking?

“Purposeful, self-regulatory judgment which results in interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and inference, as well as explanation of the evidential, conceptual, methodological, criteriological, or contextual considerations upon which that judgment is based. CT is essential as a tool of inquiry. As such, CT is a liberating force in education and a powerful resource in one's personal and civic life”

(APA Delphi Research Project, 1988-90).

A decorative graphic consisting of several sets of concentric circles in a lighter shade of blue, positioned in the bottom right area of the slide.


# What makes a good Critical Thinker?

The ideal critical thinker is habitually inquisitive, well-informed, trustful of reason, open-minded, flexible, fair-minded in evaluation, honest in facing personal biases, prudent in making judgments, willing to reconsider, clear about issues, orderly in complex matters, diligent in seeking relevant information, reasonable in the selection of criteria, focused in inquiry, and persistent in seeking results which are as precise as the subject and the circumstances of inquiry permit. Thus, educating good critical thinkers means working toward this ideal.”

(APA Delphi Research Project, 1988-90).



# Critical Thinking = Decolonization

1. Insights, understanding, and ability to formulate vital questions and communicate complex ideas
  2. High creativity, comprehension, awareness
  3. Options and solutions to complex problems
  4. High Reasoning, Accuracy, Logic, and Significance
  5. High Precision, Clarity, Depth, and Breadth
  6. High Critical consciousness, perspective, and reflection
  7. High Cognitive Talent
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- Critical Thinking, Intuitive Thinking, and Good Thinking, and the development of the Cognitive Talent (Genius) of Indigenous Peoples is the at the Center of Nation Building

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