

## **SYMPP - (18564) - INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENTS AS THE COMPARATIVE DESIRES AND THE DISTRIBUTIONS OF DIFFERENCES: INFRASTRUCTURE AND COLONIALITY**

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### **Short Abstract**

The Organization of Economic, Cooperation and Development's Programme for International Student Assessment (OECD's PISA) is explored as a site of the long-term interest in science studies concerned with the interactions of science and society. This article, however, focuses on science as an actor and its knowledge as the political. Examined in the infrastructure of PISA as a space of action that generates a center of calculations for managing social life. The calculations form at the interstices of multiple historical lines, explored as (1) the affective structuring of desires; (2) the inscription of comparative principles that differentiate and paradoxically distributes differences; (3) the entanglement of a particular modern "homeless" consciousness that appear as global, yet (4) has cultural and social locations inscribed through cybernetics systems theory and the school alchemy, assessments as translations of the science and mathematics into the territory of schooling; and (4) the technologies of the ranking, charts and graphs that produce a visual culture comparatively representing the objects of desire. The analysis brings into view issues of the representations of things, people, ideas, relations affectively generating an imperial presence in the appearance of empirical facts that divide and differentiates people under banners of progress, modernization, and the civilized in diverse historical spaces.

### **References**

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