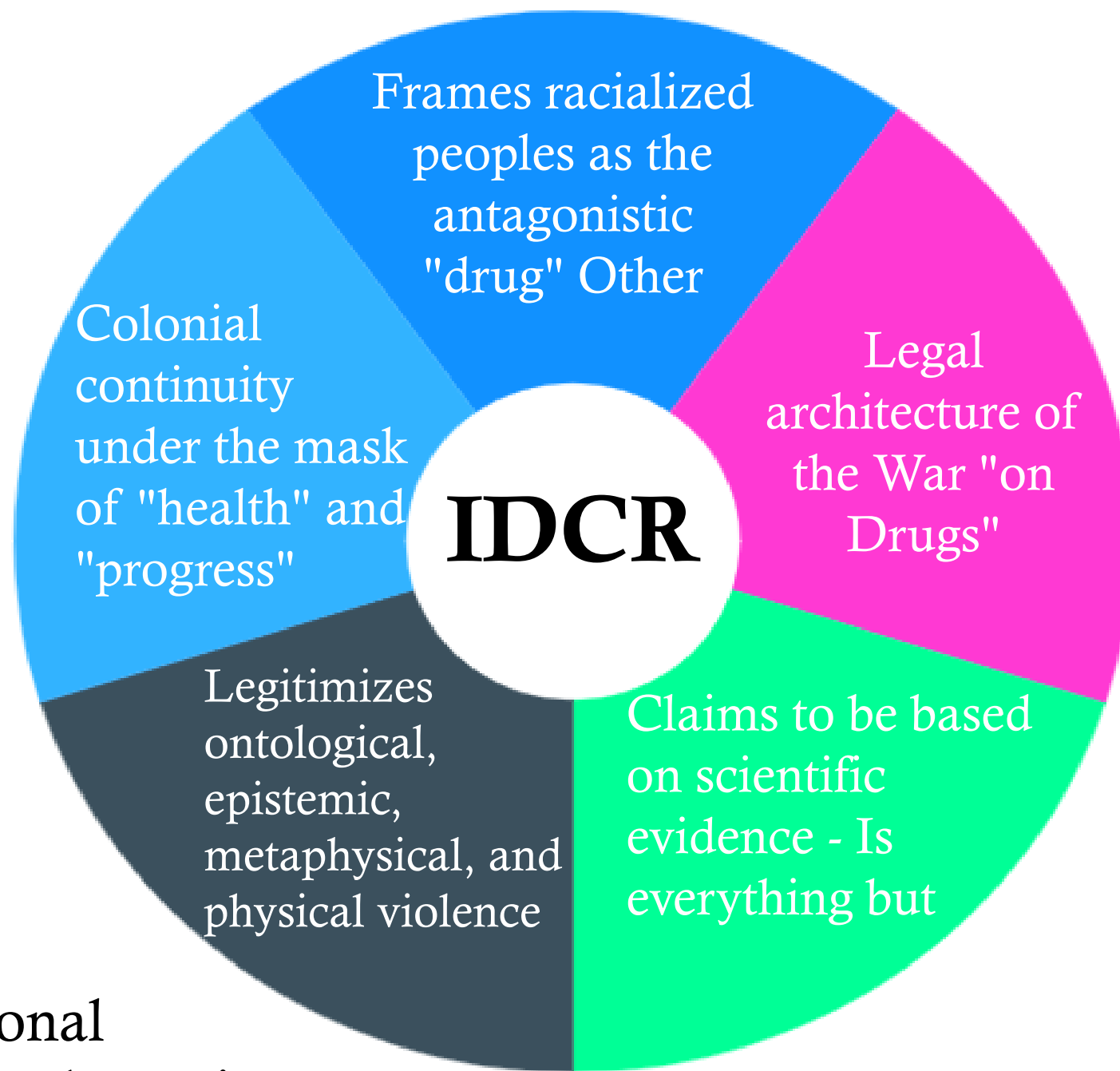


Have you ever had an experience thanks to the ingestion of a demonized substance that afforded you the unshakeable conviction that a profoundly objective truth has been revealed to you?

WHY CAN'T "WE" LEARN FROM "THEM"?

Daniel Belalcázar-Serna



The International
"Drug" "Control" Regime

DEFINITIONS

Indigenous people: vastly different groups; shared colonial trauma; unique cultural, epistemological and territorial connections; targeted by racial-capitalist dispossession; ongoing resistance against assimilation.

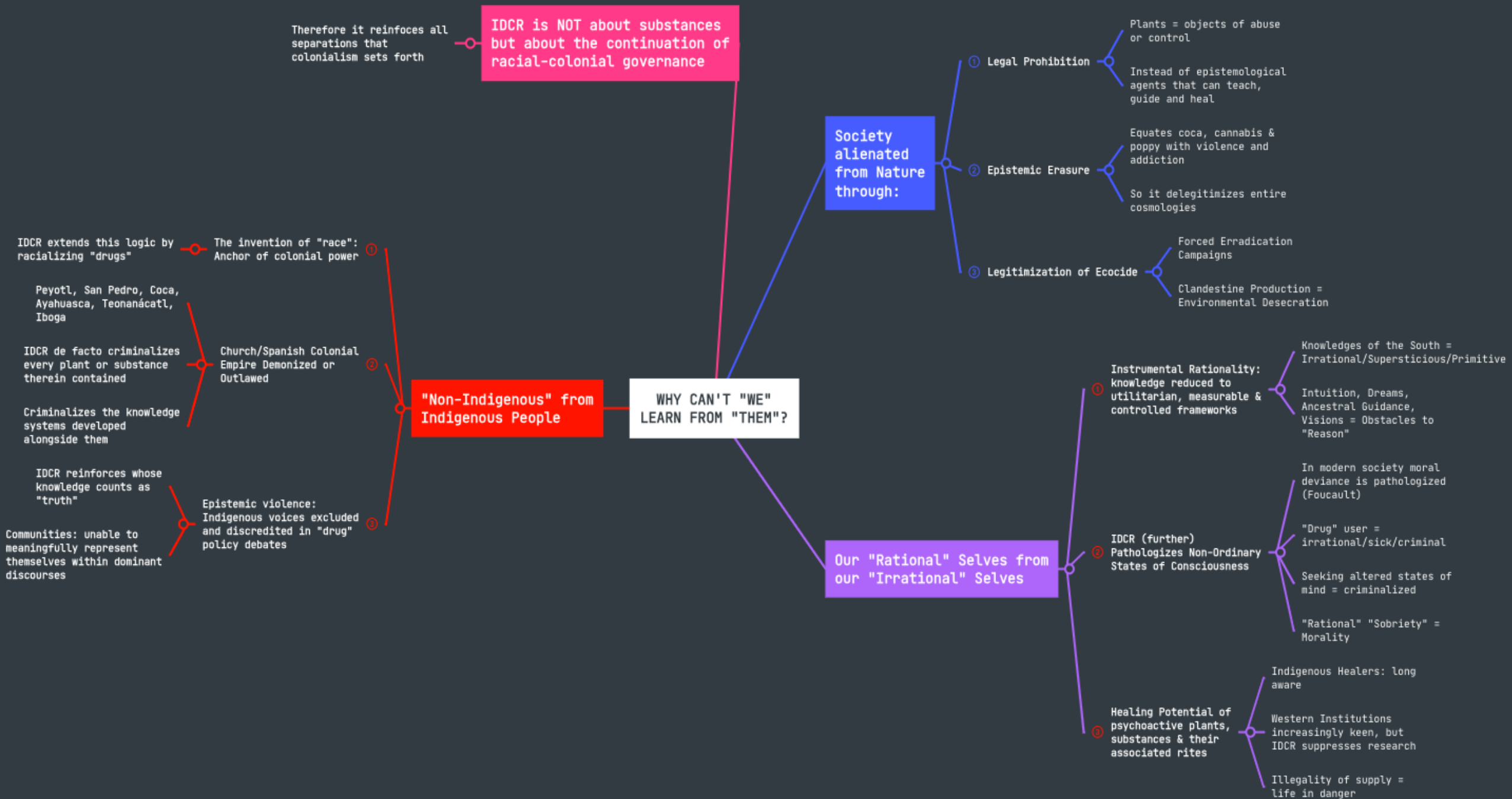
Epistemology: the study of how knowledge is created, validated and shared; Framework to determine valid knowledge.

Epistemicide: systemic destruction of knowledge systems; done through violence, law (e.g. IDCR), forced assimilation; often accompanied by genocide.

Othering: how dominant social groups define themselves in opposition to marginalized ones; create identities through binary distinctions; establish normalcy & deviance.

Antagonistic "drug" Other: manufactured social enemy; racialized; constructed to justify "drug" war; scapegoat for systemic problems.

War on (the people who use, grow, consume, sell, buy, give, make) "Drugs": global prohibition regime; furthers existing colonial hierarchies; operationalization of IDCR; violence against black & brown bodies.



WHY CAN'T "WE"
LEARN FROM "THEM"?

Society
alienated
from Nature
through:

IDCR is NOT about substances
but about the continuation of
racial-colonial governance

Therefore it reinforces all
separations that
colonialism sets forth

① Legal Prohibition

Plants = objects of abuse
or control

Instead of epistemological
agents that can teach,
guide and heal

② Epistemic Erasure

Equates coca, cannabis &
poppy with violence and
addiction

So it delegitimizes entire
cosmologies

③ Legitimization of Ecocide

Forced Erradication
Campaigns

Clandestine Production =
Environmental Desecration

IDCR extends this logic by racializing "drugs"

The invention of "race":
Anchor of colonial power

①

Peyotl, San Pedro, Coca,
Ayahuasca, Teonanácatl,
Iboga

IDCR de facto criminalizes
every plant or substance
therein contained

Church/Spanish Colonial
Empire Demonized or
Outlawed

②

Criminalizes the knowledge
systems developed
alongside them

IDCR reinforces whose
knowledge counts as
"truth"

Epistemic violence:
Indigenous voices excluded
and discredited in "drug"
policy debates

③

Communities: unable to
meaningfully represent
themselves within dominant
discourses

"Non-Indigenous" from
Indigenous People

WHY CAN'T "WE"
LEARN FROM "THEM"?

WHY CAN'T "WE"
LEARN FROM "THEM"?

Our "Rational" Selves from
our "Irrational" Selves

① Instrumental Rationality:
knowledge reduced to
utilitarian, measurable &
controlled frameworks

Knowledges of the South =
Irrational/Supersticious/Primitive

Intuition, Dreams,
Ancestral Guidance,
Visions = Obstacles to
"Reason"

② IDCR (further)
Pathologizes Non-Ordinary
States of Consciousness

In modern society moral
deviance is pathologized
(Foucault)

"Drug" user =
irrational/sick/criminal

Seeking altered states of
mind = criminalized

"Rational" "Sobriety" =
Morality

③ Healing Potential of
psychoactive plants,
substances & their
associated rites

Indigenous Healers: long
aware

Western Institutions
increasingly keen, but
IDCR suppresses research

Illegality of supply =
life in danger



47.8%
South Central America

39.5%
Spanish, Catalan and Basque

4.5%
Portuguese

2.5%
Chile

5.7%
Other

1.7% Central African

1.4% French

1.3% Nigerian

1.3% Sardinian

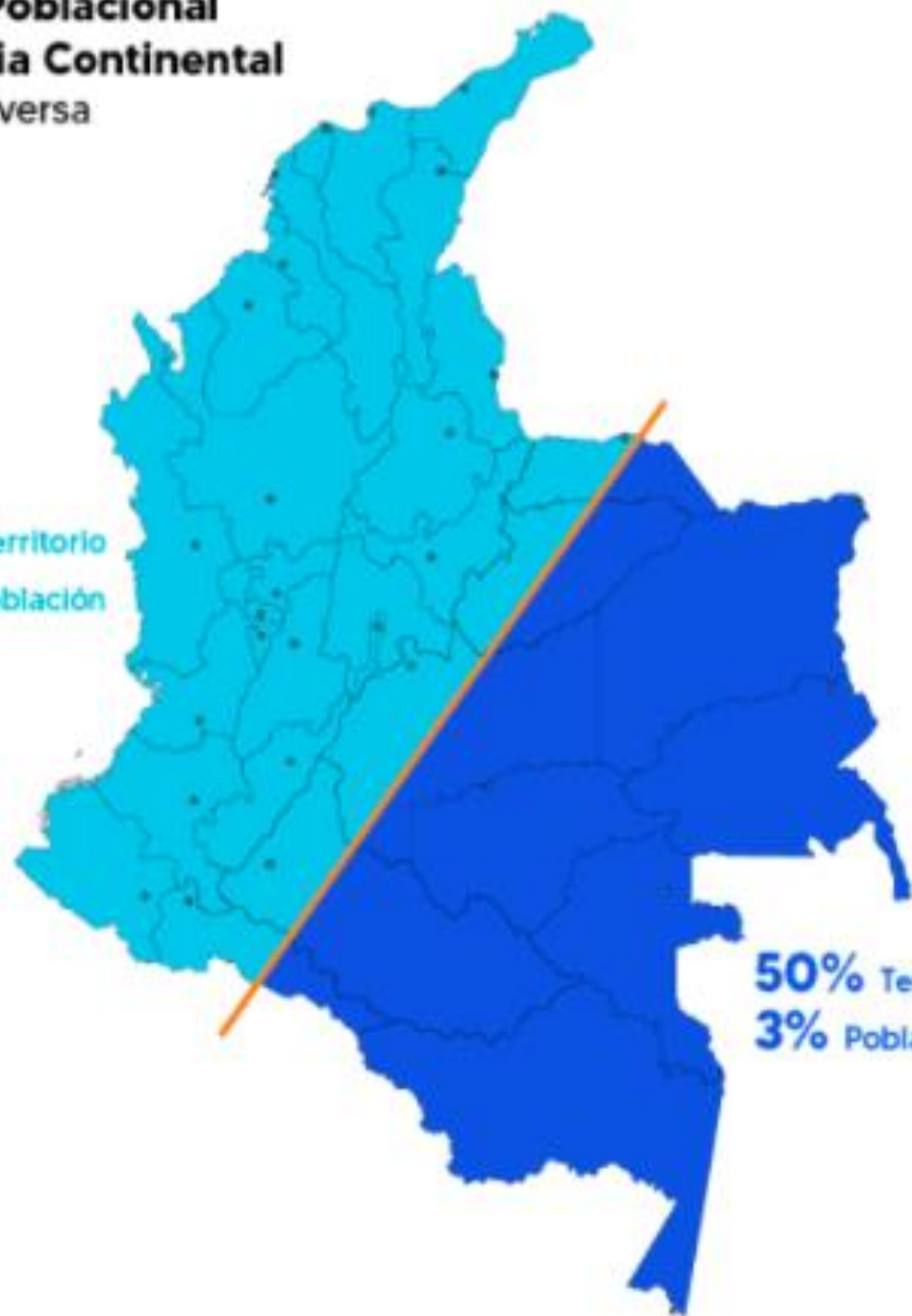
THE EPITOME OF
COLONIALISM IS THE
COLONIZED SUBJECT WHO
SEES THEMSELF HOW THE
COLONIZER SEES THEM



Densidad Poblacional en Colombia Continental

Un mirada diversa

50% Territorio
97% Población



50% Territorio
3% Población



