



# London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

## Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences

<b>Course Code &amp; Title</b>	<b>LISS205N Marxist Margins: Primitive Accumulation</b>				
<b>Convenor(s)</b>	Dr Majed Akhter				
<b>Institution</b>	King's College London	<b>Department</b>		LISS DTP	
<b>Academic Year</b>	2022-23	<b>Term</b>		Spring	
<b>Number of sessions</b>	4	<b>Research Platform</b>	Social Theory & Epistemology (STE)	<b>Length of Session(s)</b>	2 hours
<b>Day, Date</b>		<b>Start : End</b>		<b>Room Location</b>	
Wednesday 22 Feb 2023 Wednesday 1 Mar 2023 Wednesday 8 Mar 2023 Wednesday 15 Mar 2023		2 – 4 PM		In person TBD	
<b>Enrolment Links:</b>	Available to book on SkillsForge from <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b> . Click to log in and register: <a href="https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#/he/dev/eventDetails,,em,providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=205N,;">https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#/he/dev/eventDetails,,em,providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=205N,;</a> Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: <a href="https://www.kcl.ac.uk/liss-dtp/faq">Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)</a>				

### Course Description:

The objective of this course is to arrive at an introductory yet nuanced understanding of the classical and some contemporary uses of the Marxist category of “primitive accumulation” in the humanities and social sciences. The course is not meant to provide a comprehensive overview of the debates around this category nor of the Marxist tradition. Previous knowledge of Marxism is not required. Themes we can expect to discuss include: the origins and historiography of capitalism, imperialism, state power/violence, gender, race, the postcolonial state, agrarian change, and the politics of the peasantry.

Please **do not take this class** if:

- You are uninterested in a close reading and discussion of Karl Marx’s writings
- You do not have interest/capacity for significant amounts of weekly reading (see below)
- You do not have interest/capacity for writing a short weekly response paper (200 words) to the readings



**Course Outline:**

**1. Introduction**

**Required readings:**

Encyclopedia entry for "[Primitive Accumulation](#)" in the Marxist Internet Archive

Sidaway, J. D. (2009). Accumulation by Dispossession: The Play of Capital. *Human Geography*, 2(3), 104-107.

**2. Reading Marx**

**Required reading:**

Part 8 from Capital Vol 1: So-called primitive accumulation (1867)

Zasulich-Marx correspondence. (1881). [Letter from Zasulich & all drafts of Marx's response](#);

**3. Historical primitive accumulation**

**Required reading:**

Federici, S. (2004). *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation*

**4. Accumulation and the postcolonial state**

**Required reading:**

Sanyal, K. (2014). *Rethinking capitalist development: Primitive accumulation, governmentality and post-colonial capitalism*. Routledge India.

**Eligibility:**

The course is open to all PhD students interested in Marx and critical social theory. You must be a PhD student registered at King's College London, Queen Mary or Imperial College. You must be willing and able to read dense theoretical work and discuss it in a courteous manner with people from diverse personal and disciplinary backgrounds. Ensure you have registered with LISS DTP if you have not done so already. Questions? E-mail [liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk)

**Pre-course preparation:**

*No pre-course work*

**Number of students:**

*Minimum number required to run: 3*

*Maximum number of places available: 20*



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