



London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences

Course Code & Title	LISS343H The Colonial Question through Theory and Method				
Convenor(s)	Dr. Humeira Iqtidar				
Institution	King's College London	Department		Political Economy	
Academic Year	2023-24	Term		Summer	
Number of sessions	1	Research Platform	Please choose one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Theory & Epistemology (STE) • Qualitative Research (QuL) • Quantitative Research (QuT) • Digital & Archival Research Methods (DAR) • Knowledge Exchange & Co-generation (KEC) 	Length of Session(s)	3 Hours
Day, Date		Start : End		Room Location	
13 June 2024, Thursday		9:00 : 12:00		Via Zoom	
Enrolment Links:	Available to book on SkillsForge from Tuesday 2 April 2024 . Click to log in and register: https://training.kcl.ac.uk/kcl/#/he/dev/eventDetails;em.providerCode=LISS,providerOrgAlias=kcl,number=343H; Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)				

Course Description:

This course presents an expansive introduction to a range of foundational approaches to ‘the colonial question’ in theory and practice. The sessions will guide doctoral scholars through the landscape of thought from anticolonial critique, through postcolonial theory, to the more recent developments around decolonial thought. Beyond this, we will work towards a practical and applicable understanding of post- and de-colonial methods which will be useful for scholars working with a range of critical theories and empirical approaches in their research.

Part I

Anticolonial and Postcolonial Critique

This half provides an introduction to anticolonial and postcolonial theories. We will first focus on prominent (Fanon, Césaire) anticolonial scholars whose intellectual projects were bound up with political projects which actively imagined alternatives to colonial subjection. We will also engage with what might be called conservative anti-colonialism to work through the differences in underlying assumptions and imaginations.

We will then take a quick look at postcolonial theory from materialist beginnings to the textual turn. This session will begin by familiarising doctoral scholars with the emergence of subaltern studies in South Asia, through an engagement with the work of its founding scholars. Following this, we will cover the foundational contribution of the Palestinian-American intellectual Edward Said, whose definitive works on culture and literature deepened the concepts of Orientalism and imperialism. It then ends by way of an engagement with Spivak and Bhabha’s textual work which deepened the poststructural strand of postcolonial critique.

Extracts from:



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Fanon, F. (1994). *A dying colonialism*. Grove/Atlantic, Inc.

Césaire, A. (2000). *Discourse on colonialism*. NYU Press.

Guha, R., & Spivak, G. C. (Eds.). (1988). *Selected subaltern studies*. Oxford University Press.

Dipesh Chakrabarty. (2000) *Provincializing Europe*. Princeton University Press.

Spivak, G. C. (1988). Can the subaltern speak?. *Can the subaltern speak? Reflections on the history of an idea*, 21-78.

Said, E. (1979). *Orientalism*. 1978. New York: Vintage.

Part II

Moving Beyond Critique: Decolonial Thought

In this half of the session we will discuss emerging decolonial movements in both the intellectual and activist domains. We consider the influence of the decolonial project and its relationship with anticolonialism. The session will involve reflections on our own academic practices and the possibilities of decolonizing within disciplinary contexts.

Anzaldúa, G. (1987). *Borderlands: la frontera* (Vol. 3). San Francisco: Aunt Lute.

Cusicanqui, S. R. (2012). Ch'ixinakax utxiwa: A Reflection on the Practices and Discourses of Decolonization. *South Atlantic Quarterly*, 111(1), 95-109.

Wynter, S. (2003). Unsettling the coloniality of being/power/truth/freedom: Towards the human, after man, its overrepresentation--An argument. *CR: The new centennial review*, 3(3), 257-337.

Smith, L. T. (2013). *Decolonizing methodologies: Research and indigenous peoples*. Zed Books Ltd..

Additional Reading List:

Bhabra, G. K. (2014). *Connected sociologies*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Blaney, D. L., & Inayatullah, N. (2010). *Savage Economics: Wealth, poverty and the temporal walls of capitalism*. Routledge.

Césaire S (2012) *The Great Camouflage: Writings of Dissent (1941-45)*. D. Maximin (ed). Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press.

Coulthard, G. S. (2014). *Red skin, white masks: Rejecting the colonial politics of recognition*. University of Minnesota Press.

Davis, A. Y. (2011). *Women, race, & class*. Vintage.

Fanon, F. (1963). *The wretched of the earth*. New York: Grove Press.

Fanon, F. (1967). *Black skin, white masks [1952]*. New York.



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- Iqtidar, H. (2021). "Jizya Against Nationalism: Abul Ala Maududi's Attempt at Decolonizing Political Theory", *Journal of Politics*.
- Iqtidar, H. (2020). "Is Tolerance Liberal?" *Political Theory*.
- Lorde, A. (2012). *Sister outsider: Essays and speeches*. Crossing Press.
- Mignolo, W. (2007) "Delinking". *Cultural Studies*.
- Said, E. (1978). *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon.
- Sajed, A. (2013). *Postcolonial encounters in International Relations: The politics of transgression in the Maghreb*. Routledge.
- Shilliam, R. (2015). *The black Pacific: Anti-colonial struggles and oceanic connections*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Simpson, L. (2011). *Dancing on our turtle's back: Stories of Nishnaabeg re-creation, resurgence and a new emergence*. Arbeiter Ring Pub..
- Smith, L. T. (2013). *Decolonizing methodologies: Research and indigenous peoples*. Zed Books Ltd.
- Spivak, G. C. (1988). Can the subaltern speak?. *Can the subaltern speak? Reflections on the history of an idea*, 21-78.
- Wekker, G. (2016). *White innocence: Paradoxes of colonialism and race*. Duke University Press.
- Wynter, S. (2003). Unsettling the coloniality of being/power/truth/freedom: Towards the human, after man, its overrepresentation--An argument. *CR: The new centennial review*, 3(3), 257-337.

Eligibility:

Should be open to all PhD students social science methodologies but do indicate which research areas would benefit most

Pre-course preparation:

Student will gain much more from the discussion if they read all or parts of the reading material suggested for each session prior to the meeting.

Students will be asked to write short reflections.

Number of students:

20 maximum