Course Code & Title: LISS343 The Colonial Question through Theory and Method

Convenor(s): Dr Lisa Tilley, Queen Mary University of London

Institution: QMUL & LISS DTP

Department: SPIR

Academic Year: 2018-19

Term: Summer

Number of sessions: 4

Research Platform: Social Theory

Length of Session(s): 2

Day, Date: Thursday 2 May 2019
Start : End: 1100 : 1300
Room Location: QMUL GC101 404 Bancroft Rd, Bethnal Green, London E1 4DH

Enrolment Links: https://bit.ly/2GdU3fc You may be prompted to log into SkillsForge
Details on when courses open for booking can be found here: https://liss-dtp.ac.uk/our-training-programme/

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 the varied twists and turns in 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. Across the four sessions, the course will draw on textual, audio, and film sources, and will engage interactive and experiential learning techniques to bring the material alive.

Reading List:

Session One: Anticolonial critique - 2 May 2019

This session surveys the work of both prominent (Fanon, Césaire) and lesser-studied (Tan Malaka, José Rizal) anticolonial scholars whose intellectual projects were bound up with political projects which actively imagined alternatives to colonial subjection.


Session Two: Postcolonial theory from materialist beginnings to the textual turn – 9 May 2019

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 Marxist 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.


Session Three: Decolonial thought 16 May 2019

In this session we familiarise ourselves with the emerging decolonial movements in both the intellectual and activist domains. We consider the influence of Anzaldúa’s work on Mignolo and other decolonial scholars before reflecting on how Sylvia Wynter’s engagements with Fanon, through the decolonial project, bring us full-circle back to the anticolonial moment.


Session Four: Post/decolonial methods café – 23 May 2019

This final session will be an active and dynamic engagement with the kind of methods presupposed by the theories and ways of thinking covered in previous weeks. We will cover – and even invent – ways of realising self-reflective, participatory, and non-extractive methods in our research.


Eligibility:

For an introduction to global thinkers engaging with the colonial question from a range of perspectives and positions please visit: [http://globalsocialtheory.org/](http://globalsocialtheory.org/)

Additional readings:


**Pre-course preparation:**

You must be a PhD student at either King’s College London, Queen Mary University of London, or Imperial College London, using social science methodologies.

**Number of students:**

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