



Course Code & Title	LISS205 Marxist Margins: Empire, Race, and Periphery				
Convenor(s)	Dr. Majed Akhter				
Institution	King's College London	Department		Geography	
Academic Year	2020-21	Term		Summer	
Number of sessions	5	Research Platform	Social Theory & Epistemology (STE)	Length of Session(s)	2 hours
Day, Date		Start : End		Room Location	
Thursday 3 June 2021 Thursday 10 June 2021 Thursday 17 June 2021 Thursday 24 June 2021 Thursday 1 July 2021		1330 : 1530		Online via MS Teams or Zoom – link to be circulated following enrolment	
Enrolment Links:	Click here to register for this course on Skillsforge				
	Questions? Visit our Training FAQ on the LISS DTP website or write to liss-dtp@kcl.ac.uk				

Course Description:

This class has two objectives:

- 1) To seek limits/openings in the Marxist tradition through the categories of empire, race and periphery
- 2) To give special attention to the potential and limits Marxist concepts and methodology for political and historical analysis in the imperial Asian context

These objectives will be met through close readings, weekly response papers, seminar discussions, and a final review essay. This review essay will draw on 3 or more of the weekly response papers.

Course Outline:

I. Fundamentals

1. Reading Marx: Selections from Marx himself on political analysis and methodological questions.

Required readings: Zasluch-Marx correspondence. (1881). [Letter from Zasluch & all drafts of Marx's response](#); Ch1 and Ch7 from *18th Brumaire*; 1857 Introduction to the *Grundrisse*

Assignment: Write a “response paper” to the readings.

2. Marxist Methods: 3 commentaries on Marx’s method



Required readings: Hall, S. (2003). Marx's notes on method: A 'reading' of the '1857 introduction'. *Cultural studies*, 17(2), 113-149; Ollman, B. "[Putting dialectics to work](#)" – Ch5 in *Dance of the Dialectic*; Spivak, G. C. (2002). From Haverstock Hill Flat to US Classroom, What's Left of Theory?. In *What's Left of Theory?* (pp. 13-51). Routledge.

Assignment: Write a "response paper" to the readings.

3. Marxist translations: On the reformulation of Marxist theory outside Europe

Required readings: Harootunian, H. (2015). *Marx after Marx: History and time in the expansion of capitalism*. Columbia University Press.

Assignment: Write a "response paper" to the readings.

4. Racialized labour: Political economy of Korean migrant labour in imperial Japan.

Required readings: Kawashima, K. C. (2009). *The proletarian gamble: Korean workers in interwar Japan*. Duke University Press.

Assignment: Write a "response paper" to the readings.

5. Imperial periphery: Understanding peripheries in imperial capitalism.

Required readings: Matsumura, W. (2015). *The Limits of Okinawa: Japanese capitalism, living labor, and theorizations of community*. Duke University Press.

Assignment: Write a "response paper" to the readings.

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. Ensure you have registered with LISS DTP if you have not done so already.

Pre-course preparation:

No pre-course work

Number of students:

Minimum number required to run: 5

Maximum number of places available: 12