

EWIS 2024 | Call for Papers | Workshop, 3-5 July 2022

Affective Logics of Coloniality

Workshop Convenors:

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Despite the plethora of work on decolonising approaches to knowledge, there have been few attempts to map decolonial and postcolonial approaches to affect and emotion studies as a field. Within world politics, affective logics inform strategies and tactics of domination and control, extraction and exploitation, as well as shaping sites of solidarity, hope, resistance, and liberation. There has been increasing academic interest in the ways in which colonial legacies and practices constitute forms of knowledge production and circulations of affect and emotions. Innovative work is emerging on decolonising the study of particular emotions or affective states, such as shame, empathy, intimacy and trauma, across the disciplines of cultural studies, international politics and political science, geography, media studies, history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy and social psychology.

The workshop centres the understanding that colonial violence is not confined to the distant past (i.e., colonialism) but persists as coloniality: racialized ways of thinking and being associated with, although not limited to, Eurocentric global domination. The framework of the workshop thus encompasses the ways in which racism and racialisation structures affect, emotions and feelings in the present, but also refers to colonial structures and practices in historical and contemporary formation and to decolonial practices of hope, joy, solidarity and care that begin to construct alternative futurities and affective worlds. The workshop will engage with the emotional legacies of colonialism and their continuing contribution to coloniality, as well as with modes of affective solidarity and activism that aim to dismantle these legacies.

There has been growing interest in challenging and critiquing Eurocentric and universalising approaches to emotion and affect in recent years in ways that open up dialogue with postcolonial and decolonial scholarship. However, there remains a dearth of spaces that encourage scholarly encounters between these diverse research projects while also foregrounding the challenges they pose to Western-centric approaches to the study of affect and emotion. This workshop is intended to serve as such a space of encounter.

We are interested in papers approaching these issues through a variety of (inter)disciplinary perspectives and methodologies, and across different times and spaces/places. We invite papers addressing (but not limited to) affect and emotion in relation to the following themes:

- non-Western inter-state relations and state formation
- colonial lives and afterlives in indigenous politics
- the politics of solidarity, refusal and resistance
- contesting (post)colonial affects in Global Majority countries
- the politics of migration
- memory work and trauma
- sexuality and gender
- populism
- the politics of intimacy and care

The call for papers closes on 5 February 2024.