

*Conference: European Workshops of International Studies Location: Istanbul, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July 2024*

**Workshop Title: Anticolonial Pasts and Futures: Navigating loss, hope and collective struggle in a world in flux**

Submit your papers by 5 February 2024

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We invite scholars from diverse disciplines to join us in Istanbul for a transformative workshop on the politics of anticolonial pasts and futures. In the midst of a deeply conflictual world, this gathering seeks to create a vibrant space where intellectual exchange, critical engagement, and collaborative envisioning can take place.

This workshop aims to recognise the on-going work of anticolonial struggles that generate lived realities and sustain radical theoretical traditions, social movements and imaginaries globally. With discourse on imperialism and anti-imperialism back in the consciousness of billions, yet simultaneously suppressed by governments and media, we are interested in historical and contemporary accounts, encounters, conflicts, movements and events, generating conversations on where anticolonial action occurs, and how and why it emerges in unexpected times. Living traditions of resistance produce alternative lifeworlds, relationalities and political formations; we can see this in the deep resonance of the plight and resistance of the Palestinians with Maoris, African Americans and indigenous communities worldwide, that binds societies in Global North and South. Alina Sajed writes on the lateral connections between the Algerian anticolonial struggle and connected struggles in the colonial world, binding Algeria to Vietnam, the Black Panthers to Palestine, whilst Jasmine Gani illuminates anti-imperial encounters connecting the Middle East and South Asia. What concepts, inquiries, and intersections of study can we, as scholars of world politics, galvanise, in order to highlight these engagements in our current context. What do we leave behind and what do we make anew? As Branwen Gruffyd-Jones asks, how might elements of the colonial and anticolonial past be brought into critical constellations with our own present?

This section is interested in papers that discuss under what conditions anticolonial movements emerge, how are they sustained, and how do they situate themselves within geopolitical, statist and capitalist structures, whilst offering the seeds for alternative worlds. How does anticolonial thought and praxis move and generate new possibilities for political imaginaries? What does struggle and sacrifice mean when confronted with power imbalances and material conditions of hardship? And how have forging new spatial and spiritual connections, material developments, technological advancements and temporal epistemologies fought against this?

We want to foster a discussion of how anticolonial thought exists prior to, and sat with postcolonial and decolonial theories, and where it departs from these traditions, and why it is an improvement that needs to be built upon. This necessitates us to ask what it is about the authenticity, resonance and asymmetric contests for power, that mean anticolonial struggles continue to provide perhaps the ultimate source of power and hope from which marginalised communities engage with across the planet. In the context of climate breakdown, rising authoritarianism and the steep decline of legitimacy of the Western order, we need to face the reality of our deeply relational, messy and conflict-ridden world. In the ruins of empire, we ask scholars how we navigate loss, hope and collective struggles, and how we sharpen our critical tools and nourish our community networks, in the active pursuit of anticolonial worldmaking.

**Call for Papers:** We warmly invite scholars to contribute to this workshop by submitting abstracts that align with the outlined themes. Let us come together in Istanbul, July 2024, to embark on a journey of intellectual exploration, critical reflection, and collaborative solidarity. We look forward to your participation.

*Deadline for Abstract Submission: February 5 2024*

**Key Themes:**

- 1. Anticolonial pasts and futures and divergent strands of anticolonial worldmaking**
- 2. Rethinking Eurocentric time and space in world politics**
- 3. Anticolonial movements and events**
- 4. History and theory: comparative anticolonial political thought**
- 5. Repertoires of resistance: geopolitics, resistance and the postcolonial state**
- 6. Decolonising understandings of war and resistance: synergies and dissonance between Global North and Global South**
- 7. Crumbling white world order and the intersections of race, class, and gender**
- 8. Power-Knowledge: publications, imaginaries and imagery**
- 9. Diaspora politics and migration**
- 10. Underdevelopment, logistics and the political economy of anticolonial struggle.**
- 11. Internationalism and planetary solidarity**
- 12. Cultural production, art, music and resistance**
- 13. Relationalities of religion, solidarity and spirituality in anticolonial practice**
- 14. Climate crises and anticolonialism**
- 15. Anticolonialism and the human**