

Workshop: The Global Colonial Present

Call for Papers: 11th European Workshops in International Studies, 3-5 July 2024, Istanbul

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The last decade has been a period of intensified reflection on the impact of colonialism in public debate and academia. In the humanities and social sciences there is an ever-increasing body of literature that analyses colonialism, coloniality, race, slavery, and Eurocentrism in relation to power and domination. However, much of the existing literature focuses on the Anglo-world. Against this backdrop, this workshop provides scholars of colonialism with an interdisciplinary space to explore and discuss colonial realities across the globe - beyond but also in connection to the Anglosphere. It offers an opportunity to look at how colonial practices, norms, imaginaries, and laws operate across multiple regions.

For example, scholars of colonialism in Latin America have underscored that in Argentina, Black oppression took place through individual household rather than chattel slavery, leading to closer relationships of solidarity with Indigenous and poor white people that continue to this day. In Germany, as scholars in Black German Studies point out, anti-Black racism continues to be denied in favour of focusing on other forms of racism, such as antisemitism, from which modern Germany claims to have redeemed itself. And scholars of migration in East Asia highlight how Japanese colonisation of Korea, Taiwan, and Manchuria shaped the movement of people in the region.

In this workshop, we are interested in reflecting on how colonial and racist ideologies and practices manifested themselves in different regions, and how they were acted upon, depended on, and continue to depend on specific local contexts and historical trajectories that are embedded within a global framework of imperialism. Starting from particular territories, histories, and cultures, the workshop aims to trace how these various colonial realities are overlapping and connecting to larger structures of oppression, but also internally heterogeneous and sometimes even contradictory. We seek to explore the consequences this has for strategies of decolonisation, in order to move towards a reimagined future that allows for resistance.

The questions the workshop aims to engage with include, but are not limited to:

- How are concepts such as 'colonialism', 'race', 'Eurocentrism', and 'coloniality' understood in different contexts, both historically and theoretically?
- What theoretical works on colonialism and racism have emerged from specific regional contexts beyond the Anglo-settler colonies and the UK?
- How do different colonial understandings and histories connect, overlap, but also contradict each other, and how do they end up forming larger global structures?
- How do specific colonial and racist histories impact on specific national and societal cultural and political identities, and what is the impact on that for (global) political practice?
- How do different histories, experiences and understandings lead to different strategies of decolonisation and anti-racist/decolonial practice?
- What are the consequences of all of this for rethinking the need for decolonisation and anti-racism in IR and other disciplines?

We welcome contributions that are theoretical (engaging with the thought of e.g. Black and Indigenous activists and scholars from diverse spaces across the globe) and empirical (historical or contemporary) and from scholars who are located across the social sciences and humanities, including but not limited to political science, international relations, history, sociology, anthropology, comparative literature, geography, and cultural studies.