

# Course Decolonizing the Mind - introduction

## Background

The legacy of colonialism is an open wound in present-day western society that has different names: racism, islamofobia, white supremacy, extreme right etc.

Despite the gains won by decolonization in the sphere of politics, economics and international relations there is still one dimension of colonialism that has survived the process of decolonization in the fifties and sixties of the last century, that is the dimension of mental colonialism.

Mental colonialism created a narrative of race relations that still dominates the discourse in western media: the supposed superiority of western culture and the supposed inferiority of non-western cultures.

This narrative has changed in the course of four centuries of colonialism, but its basic assumptions are widespread in the educational system and the discourse in the media. It is there in the mind of both the former colonizer and the colonized. Decolonizing the mind means changing the mindset of both groups.

## Target of the course

The course *Decolonizing the Mind* has the following targets:

1. *Knowledge dissemination*: To present new decolonized knowledge on colonialism and its legacy. The student gets an integrated view on five dimensions of colonialism: geographical, economic, political, social and mental. The student gets to know the dominant propositions by scholars from the current of scientific colonialism and their arguments. The critique of these propositions and arguments are presented from the point of view of DTM and an alternative framework is presented to understand the legacy of colonialism in present day society.
2. *Developing an assertive decolonial attitude*. DTM is not only a matter of consuming new knowledge. It is an attitude that is firmly grounded in the belief that the dominant authority of knowledge (science, government, education, and media) and its policy implications can and should be challenged with sound counterpropositions and arguments. The course aims to build such an attitude.
3. *Mastering the tools of debate and discussion for DTM*. Knowledge and attitude might not be enough to decolonize the mind. The main instruments of DTM are discussions and debates. The course trains student in discussion and debate both in term of content as well as form, presentation and attitude. DTM is a struggle. Training in discussion and debate is training in the art of intellectual struggle.

## One-day course

The course is from 9.00-17.00 hrs.

## Programme

08.30-09.00	Entree
09.00-09.30	Personal introduction: who is who in the course (name, activities) Topics and line of the course
09.30-10.15	Lecture 1. Knowledge production, White Enlightenment and the mechanisms of colonizing the mind: key concepts
10.15-10.30	Discussion
10.30-11.15	Lecture 2. The legacy of colonialism in five dimensions: geography, economics, politics, race and social relations and culture
11.15-11.30	Discussion
11.30-12.15	Lecture 3. The concept of scientific colonialism: how colonialism influence Eurocentric science
12.15-12.30	Discussion
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.15	Lecture 4. Decolonizing the mind: challenges and strategies
14.15-14.30	Discussion
14.30-15.15	Lecture 5. Race, class and organization for emancipation in the colonies, USA and Europe
15.15-15.30	Tea break
15.30-15.45	Discussion
15.45-16.45	Exercises: techniques of decolonial debate and discussion
16.45-17.00	Conclusions

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Lecture 1. Knowledge production, White Enlightenment and the mechanisms of colonizing the mind: key concepts

- The world before European colonization
- The historical development of three forms of racism: theological racism, biological racism and cultural racism.
- Racism and the philosophers of White Enlightenment
- Mechanisms of colonizing the mind

Lecture 2. The legacy of colonialism in five dimension: geography, economics, politics, race and social relations and culture

- Geography and migration since 1500
- The growth of a world economy with colonialism
- The changing mechanisms of economic exploitation
- Forms of political institutions of colonialism: external and internal colonialism
- Race, gender and class in colonialism
- Culture and colonialism
- The legacy of colonialism

Lecture 3. The concept of scientific colonialism: how colonialism influence Eurocentric science

- The rise of White Enlightenment and science
- The racist concepts in different fields of science
- Black thinkers and colonialism

Lecture 4. Decolonizing the mind: challenges and strategies

- The mechanisms of decolonizing the mind.
- Knowledge production and social struggle.
- The rise of multicultural societies in Europe and (de)colonizing the mind

Lecture 5. Race, class and organization for emancipation in the USA and Europe

- The struggle in the colonies
- The struggle in the USA
- The struggle in Europe

Role-play; Exercises: techniques of decolonial debate and discussion

Simulation of discussion and debate: techniques of dissecting propositions and arguments in debates.