

Whose "decolonization" is it?

A critical view from ethnohistoric, ethnographic, -linguistic and museum studies in Latin America on a current concept

Dates: 25th to 27th of February 2020

Venue: BASA (Ground Floor), Dep. for the Anthropology of the Americas, Oxfordstr. 15, 53111 Bonn

Organizers: Dr. Antje Gunsenheimer (University of Bonn, Dep. for the Anthropology of the Americas) and Dr. Justyna Olko (University of Warsaw, Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity)

Basic ideas of the workshop

Originally understood as the political process of independence movements in colonized territories, these days 'decolonization' and 'decoloniality' is a frequently used concept in the social sciences and the humanities. Their focus is mainly on processes of 'intellectual decolonization' between Europe/USA, e.g. (the broader 'North') and previously colonized states in Africa, Latin America, Asia, etc. (the broader 'South') or they analyze and reflect on decolonization processes of marginalized communities within modern multicultural nation states with asymmetric power relations (e.g. indigenous peoples in Latin America).

Research projects in our disciplines have already made substantial experience with the inclusion of local communities into planning and implementation of research goals. Other projects just stumble by chance into an interactive process with local communities and their interests. In regard of those observations, the workshop poses the question "Whose decolonization is it?" in order

- to reflect critically on the understanding of "decolonization processes" in our disciplines (anthropology, ethnohistory, linguistics, archaeology and museum studies),
- to discuss the interface between academic views of decolonization and local efforts of empowerment (enhancing factors, obstructive factors), how to embrace local actors and community-driven research?
- to summarize which lessons (negative and positive) can be learned from ongoing research projects
- to identify what it needs (desiderata) to include 'decolonizing' perspectives/goals into our concepts of research projects and associated engaged activities
- to identify common future prospective research topics and implementation forms (planning and realization, cooperations with local communities, fostering networks, empowerment strategies, etc.)
- to define convincing arguments for stake holders and funding agencies to support innovative research cooperations and additional costs.
- Problem of transparent, self-reflective research, questions of authorship, benefit sharing, role of community members in defining research agendas.

We encourage all participants to use these ideas to give a presentation based on their own academic research.

We would also like to inspire you to discuss with us the following themes:

- Europe and the world: A critical discourse on Europe's relation to and perspective on Latin America (or the world)
- Contrasting and critical view on the concept of "decolonization" as it is discussed in current postcolonial works
- Present heritage of past internal and ongoing colonization, including Europe.

Preliminary schedule

25.02.2020

08:30 pm Welcome with Dinner Buffet at BASA (Oxfordstraße 15, Ground floor) and getting to know each other

26.02.2020

Presentations by participants, explaining their understanding of "decolonization processes", "processes of empowerment" from their disciplinary and research perspective with a comparative view on current definitions of "decolonization" in Social Sciences and the Humanities linked with sessions of discussion; theoretical approaches, methods and (multi)disciplinary potential, spaces, practical implementations, limitations, traps and challenges; sustainability of decolonizing approaches to research; decolonizing methods of generating and sharing knowledge(s)

10:00 am Wellcome address and first session

General theme: Decolonizing research methods

Presentations Justyna Olko

Decolonizing spaces and methods in ethnohistorical and anthropological research: some ideas, examples of implementation and challenges

Katarzyna Granicka

Towards decolonizing aspects of the ethnohistorical studies of the sixteenth-century Nahua sources

John Sullivan

How we conduct research at the Instituto de Docencia e Investigación Etnológica de Zacatecas

11:00 – 12:00 Discussion

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee Break

12:30 – 14:00 **General theme: Interface between academic views of decolonization and local efforts of empowerment (enhancing factors, obstructive factors)**

Presentations Dennis Lucy Avilés Irahola

The *Buen Vivir* from a decolonial feminist perspective.

Antje Gunsenheimer

Indigenous tourism projects as a means of decolonization? The role of the academic.

Eva Kalny

Discussion

02:00 pm

Lunch Break

03:30-05:00 **General Theme: Decolonizing museums rooted in coloniality**

Presentations Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde

Daniel Graña-Behrens

Naomi Rattunde

Discussion

Coffee Break

07:00 pm

Dinner at Restaurant

27.02.2020

09:30 – 11:00 **General Theme: Forms of implementation – lessons learnt**
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Presentations Eva Youkhana

Carla Jaimes Betancourt

Discussion

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 01:00 Discussion of possible future plans. Suggestions for cooperative future plans
comprise:

- Common panel at the AAA-meeting in St. Louis, USA, 18th to 22nd of November 2020?
- A more thematical or regional focused workshop in Mexico in 2021?
- Cooperation in ...?
- Defining milestones; planning a project in a consortium; discussion and overview of possible sources of funding.

01:00 pm

Lunch and farewell

Participants

Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity, Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, University of Warsaw:

Dr. Katarzyna Granicka
Dr. Justyna Olko
Dr. John Sullivan

Leibniz University of Hannover:

Dr. habil. Eva Kalny

Städtische Museen Freiburg:

Dr. Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde

Center for Development Research (ZEF), Dept. for Political and Cultural Change, University of Bonn:

Dr. Dennis Lucy Avilés Irahola
Dr. habil. Eva Youkhana

Dep. for the Anthropology of the Americas, University of Bonn:

Dr. Daniel Graña-Behrens
Dr. Antje Gunsenheimer
Dr. Carla Jaimes Betancourt
Naomi Rattunde, M.A.

Languages: English and Spanish

Suggestion for preparation

We are aware that we do have quite different backgrounds on which we address the topics raised above. We suggest to read two of the papers mentioned in the following (attached to e-mail):

Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui (2012): “*Ch’ixinakax utxiwa*. A Reflection on the Practices and Discourses of Decolonization”. *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 111 (3): 95 – 109.

Elías David Morales Martínez y Jéssica Girão Florêncio (2018): “El debate sobre decolonialidad, Aspectos indígenas y medio ambiente en América Latina. Un análisis sobre el estado del arte.” *Foro internacional*, Vol. 58 (1): 131 – 160.

Walter D. Mignolo and Catherine E. Walsh (2018): *On Decoloniality. Concepts, Analytics, Praxis*. Chapter: “Introduction”, p. 2 – 12 or Chapter “What does it mean to decolonize?”, p. 105 - 134. Durham and London: Duke University.

Robin Boast (2011): “Neocolonial collaboration: Museum as Contact Zone Revisited”, *Museum Anthropology*, Vol. 34: 56 – 70.

Amy Kennemore and Nancy Postero (2020): “Collaborative ethnographic methods: dismantling the ‘anthropological broom closet’?”, *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, DOI: 10.10080/17442227.2020.1721091.