Decolonial Provocations: Thinking Coloniality in the Global South

April 8-9, 2015
Building 37, American University of Beirut

This two-day international workshop explores decoloniality as a rubric through which to approach the violence of modernity, imperialism, settler colonialism, with an eye towards engaging decolonial thought in the contemporary Arab world. Some of the questions we are asking include: What is the relationship between fugitive sites of the Global South and the contemporary Arab world? How might a consideration of these relationships help to illuminate the overlapping histories of colonialism and iterative modes of coloniality that continue to shape the world? What types of creativity might an engagement with decoloniality inspire, and how might new aesthetic practices contribute to visions of Arab futurity? We seek conversations with scholars from different fields and regions, with special focus on initiating South-South dialogues.

Program

Day 1: Public Symposium
Wednesday, April 8, 3:30pm-8:30pm

3:30pm: Welcome & Introduction
Anaheed Al-Hardan
Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies, American University of Beirut

3:45pm: Divesting the Modern Nation-States
Kuan-Hsing Chen
Graduate Institute for Social Research and Cultural Studies, National Chiao Tung University

4:30pm: Decolonial Gesture
The Case for Anarco-Feminist Indigenous Critique
Macarena Gómez-Barris
American Studies & Sociology, University of Southern California

5:15pm-5:45pm: Coffee break & light pastries

5:45pm: Counter-Sovereignty
Manu Vimalassery
American Studies, Barnard College

6:30pm: Exposing Coloniality
Decolonial Gestures in Contemporary Art of Central America
Kency Cornejo
Department of Art and Art History, University of New Mexico

7:15pm: Response
Samer Frangieh
Political Studies and Public Administration, American University of Beirut

7:30pm: Q&A
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PROGRAM

DAY 2: CLOSED SEMINAR 
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 10AM-3:30PM 
(BASED ON PRE-CIRCULATED READINGS & SIGN UP)

10:00am-10:15am: Welcome and Introduction 
Anjali Nath 
Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies, 
American University of Beirut 

10:15am-11:15am: Francisco Huichaqueo Perez’s Mencer 
Mapuche Visuality, Dreams, and the Ethical Life of Trees 
Macarena Gómez-Barris 
Discussant: Samhita Sunya 
Department of English, American University of Beirut 

11:15am-12:15pm: Black and Native Visions of Self-Determination 
Manu Vimalassery 
Discussant: Adam Waterman 
Department of English, American University of Beirut 

12:15pm-12:45pm: Coffee and light snacks

12:45pm-1:45pm: Un Grito: Visual Disobedience 
and Indigeneity in Guatemala 
Kency Cornejo 
Discussant: Hatim El-Hibri 
Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies, 
American University of Beirut 

1:45pm-2:45pm: Civil Society and Min-Jian 
On Political Society and Popular Democracy 
Kuan Hsing-Chen 
Discussant: Anaheed Al-Hardan 

2:45pm-3:30pm: Closing Discussion & Remarks 

3:30pm: Lunch for seminar participants 

ORGANIZERS: ANAHEED AL-HARDAN, ANJALI NATH & ADAM WATERMAN 
SPONSORS: ARTS AND HUMANITIES INITIATIVE AND 
CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH