



## **Explorative Workshop**

### **“Postcolonial Critique**

### **Latin American and Eastern European Perspectives (American South – European East)”**

**23rd–24th of September 2019**

Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstr. 14, 14193 Berlin

Convener: Clara Frysztacka, Jennifer Ramme, Pablo Valdivia (all Europa Universität Viadrina)

In cooperation with: Viadrina Institute for European Studies (IFES)

#### **Description**

How far do regions of Eastern Europe and Latin America challenge and diversify the concept of post-colonialism? What do they add and how do they challenge current concepts of post-colonial critique? Questioning the production and transfer of current postcolonial discourses, the workshop aims to discuss Eastern Europe and Latin America as specific loci of post-colonial critique and knowledge production. The workshop aims to break through the hegemonic logic of theoretical transfer, which is expressed in canonization of post-colonial theories, languages and scenes, which, we suggest, reassert the interpretational prerogative of imperial metropolises and still follow a colonial trajectory. Proposing an alternative perspective from the vantage point of the American “South” and the European “East” to deconstruct seemingly solid concepts of “West” and “Europe”, we call for a critical revision of the view that postcolonial theories are a neutral kit of methods that is uniformly applicable for a wide range of postcolonial contexts. Instead, we propose postcolonial thinking as a variety of located critical perspectives on the replicating mechanisms of power and power asymmetries in globalized modernity. We aim to explore possibilities of discursive plurality. By doing so, we neither aim to impose a general formula of a single plural-diverse language nor do we assert a complete incomparability between the different experiences and settings of colonial modernity. The goal of the workshop is to exercise, yet problematize post-colonial critique as a practice of knowledge by means of a transregional reflection.

This is a closed event. Registration is not possible.

## **Program**

**Monday 23rd of September**

**12:00–13:00 Reception**

**12:15–13:00 Greeting and introduction round**

**13:00–14:00 Lunch (buffet)**

**14:00–17:00 Section 1: “Arenas and Scenes of the Colonial: Latin-American and East-European Paradigms” (Chair: Clara Fryszacka)**

In this section, we will discuss the present and historical dimensions of colonialism in Latin America and Eastern Europe. What becomes visible and why should/ shouldn't these dimensions be described in both their history and present as colonial?

Inputs:

Sara Alonso Gómez (University Paris Diderot)

Redi Koobak (Linköping University)

Danijela Majstorović (University Banja Luca)

Victor Viviescas (National University of Colombia, Bogotá)

Comment:

Claudia Kraft (University of Vienna)

Fernando Nina (Heidelberg University)

**17:00–17:30 Coffee break**

**17:30–20:00 Public event: “Postcolonial Critique and Artistic Encounters: American South – European East”**

**Opening performance “Songs of a Transindigenous Environmental Front”** by Joulia Strauss.

**Artist Talk: De-centering the Gaze: Artistic Strategies for a Decolonial Future.** Sara Alonso Gómez (art curator, Havana/Paris) will discuss the question of postcolonial positionalities in the context of the arts with the artists Esther Shalev-Gerz (Vilnius/Paris) and Antonio Eligio Fernández (“Tonel”) (Havana/Vancouver), especially the dimensions of alterity and critique.

**20:30 Dinner in “Piazza Brá” (Kurfürstendamm 94, 10709 Berlin)**

**Tuesday 24th of September**

**9:00–10:00 Coffee buffet**

**10:00–12:30 Section 2: “What defines a Postcolonial Dispositive? Contextualizing postcolonial Critique” (Chair: Pablo Valdivia)**

This section analyzes the contributions of post-colonial critique in both regions and reflects on the connections between critique and the space of its production.

Inputs:

Dorota Kołodziejczyk (University of Wrocław)

Teresa Kulawik (Sördertorns University)

Emilian Ortega (National Autonomous University of Mexico/Heidelberg University)

Alexei Penzin (University of Wolverhampton)

Comment:

Ruth Sonderegger (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)

**12:30–13:30 Lunch**

**13:30–15:30 Section 3: “(American) South – (European) East: Shared Positionalities, Risks and Potentials” (Chair: Jennifer Ramme)**

In this section we look at the potential and risks of putting these two regional perspectives into dialogue: can we think about a shared or trans-regional critique of postcolonial critique?

Inputs:

Clara Frysztacka/ Jennifer Ramme/ Pablo Valdivia (European University Viadrina, Frankfurt Oder)

Janis Nalbadidacis (Humboldt University, Berlin)

Fernando Nina (Heidelberg University)

Comment:

Manuela Boătca (University of Freiburg)

**15:30–16:00 Coffee break**

**16:00–17:30 Closing discussion**

Summarizing comment and input:

Joulia Strauss (Avtonomi Akadimia Athens)

**19:30 Dinner in Kreuzberg**