

ROUNDTABLE

DECOLONIALITY NOW:

IDEAS, PRACTICES & NEW DEBATES

25 APRIL 2024 6.30 PM IST

Speakers

Dilip Menon, University of the Witwatersrand
Katucha Bento, University of Edinburgh
Pavan K Malreddy, Goethe University Frankfurt
Diran Soumonni, University of the Witwatersrand

Chair

Lesley McAra, University of Edinburgh

Conveners & Discussion Initiators

Mursed Alam, Gour College, University of Gour Banga
Anindya Sekhar Purakayastha, ILSR, Kolkata

Organised by

Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS)
Ambedkar Centre for Social and Cultural Studies, Gour College

in academic collaboration with

Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), University of Edinburgh
Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR), Kolkata

Web- Roundtable
on
Decoloniality Now: Ideas, Practices & New Debates

Concept Note

Decoloniality is an interventionist idea that entails the deconstruction and decolonisation of existing Eurocentric epistemes and practices. More constructively, it involves strategies ranging from calls for the reformulation of university curricula, to the de-hierarchisation of knowledge systems, addressing material inequality, and to reparative justice, involving the repatriation of artefacts and materials taken away from the geographical and cultural habitus of former colonies. Some former colonial powers, today, are taking a critical look at their colonial legacies and debating practical ways of combating their history. However, uncritical decolonisation has also led, in the former colonies, to cultural nationalism, ethnic totalitarianism and nativism. This roundtable proposes to take a critical look at the existing ideas and practices of decolonisation today, and looks forward to transformative strategies of allyship across borders, while never losing sight of the epistemic injustice and minoritisation that often characterise the enterprise.

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Chair, Speakers & Discussants

Lesley McAra

Dilip M Menon



Katucha Bento

Diran Soumonni



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Anindya Purakayastha

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SPEAKER PROFILE



Professor Lesley McAra CBE is the Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), University of Edinburgh. She holds the Chair of Penology in the School of Law, University of Edinburgh. She is also Assistant Principal Community Relations, a former Dean of the Law School (the first woman to be appointed to the post) and serves on the Management Board of the Global Justice Academy.

Prof. Dilip M. Menon is the Mellon Chair of Indian Studies and the Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. He was educated at the Universities of Delhi, Oxford and Cambridge and earned his PhD from Cambridge. His most recent book is *Changing Theory: Concepts from the Global South* (2022).

Dr. Katucha Bento is a Lecturer in Race and Decolonial Studies at the University of Edinburgh and the co-founder of the Free Afro-Brazilian University (UNAFRO). Her main inspirations are in quilombo and samba communities' epistemologies and praxis, reaching out to Black feminists and Queer subversive language to promote ethics of caring and power to the people.

Dr. Pavan Kumar Malreddy teaches at Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany. His publications include *Orientalism, Terrorism, Indigenism* (2015) and the co-edited collection *Reworking Postcolonialism* (2015). He has co-edited special issues with the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* (2012; 2020), *ZAA: Journal of English and American Studies* (2014), *Kairos* and the *European Journal of English Studies* (2018), and has authored essays on terrorism, political violence and postcolonial theory in *The European Legacy*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* and *Intertexts*, among others. He co-edits *Kairos: A Journal of Critical Symposium*.

Dr. Diran Soumonni teaches innovation studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. He holds a PhD from the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, and was an African Fellow at IASH, University of Edinburgh (2023-2024). He is interested in the plural epistemological paradigms that underpin various innovation domains with a view to clarifying some of the conditions under which more equitable and just societal outcomes might be attained. He is also a co-editor of the multidisciplinary journal, *Black Histories: Dialogues*.

Professor Anindya Purakayastha, currently with the Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR), Kolkata has been professor of English at Kazi Nazrul University. He was a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He works on postcolonial governmentality, political violence and the Anthropocene. His recent co-edited books include *Deleuze and Guattari and Terror* (2022). He co-edits *Kairos: A Journal of Critical Symposium* and has been a founding member of the Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS).

Dr. Mursed Alam teaches as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Gour College, University of Gour Banga, India. He was a recipient of the RACE.ED Research Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH), University of Edinburgh in 2023 and the ICSI New School Summer Seminar Fellowship 2024. He is the managing editor of *Kairos: A Journal of Critical Symposium*, and one of the founding members of Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS).

