

7 - Teaching Postcolonial Europe from Feminist and Queer Perspectives

Format:

Workshop/Panel

Content: This panel promotes a collective reflection on what it means to teach such a slippery and shifting object of inquiry as “postcolonial Europe,” adding a feminist and queer perspective to the complexity that the topic already entails. As the coordinators of the panel, we will introduce this problematic by taking two main starting points: on the one hand, the publication of our co-edited volume *Postcolonial Transitions in Europe. Contexts, Practices and Politics* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), which is also meant to be employed in undergraduate and graduate courses on Europe and postcolonial theory; on the other hand, the experience of teaching the course Postcolonial Europe at Utrecht University for more than a decade. By presenting the cartographic work carried out in the volume alongside the experience of the course, we will raise a number of theoretical problematics connected to postcolonial Europe yet grounding them in concrete teaching practices and strategies.

This introduction will open a collective reflection for which we particularly welcome contributions addressing the following topics: what are the power relations underpinning feminist and queer knowledge production *about* postcolonial Europe as well as its circulation *within* postcolonial Europe; how to approach postcolonial Europe as an object of inquiry in its own right, rather than through national examples that allegedly represent Europe as a whole; how to articulate Europe’s imperial past and present with forms of coloniality shaping intra-European power relations, i.e. between European centres and peripheries; how does sexual politics participate in the structuring of such power relations within Europe; how to thematize the relation between new media and art practices crossing geopolitical borders and the remaking of those very borders at an institutional level.

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