

HIS 554 - Theme Seminar

Decolonizing Imperial Histories: Arguments, Methodologies, Research

Professor Kathleen Wilson

Tuesday 3:30-6:20pm SBS N-318

Is it possible to separate History from the imperial matrices and racial capitalism that have for so long produced it? Can we discover ways to decolonize our categories (such as, but not limited to, gender, race and class, identity, and alterity, north and south, center and periphery and other time/space grids of geopolitics) and our modes of knowledge while continuing to write history ‘as we know it’? Should we try to adopt a ‘view from the south,’ which has come to connote the perspective of dispossessed actors across cultures of the current world order? This theme seminar will examine strategies for using decolonial and anti-colonial methodologies, archives and temporal strategies that promote more complex and attentive understandings of our entangled pasts and doing something with history other than tag the majority of the world as ‘behind’. We will also be considering the ethics and praxis of anti-colonial practices and ideas in settler colonial nations and the types of critical and historical activism that can be seen to encourage more ‘pluriversal’ narratives and projected futures. Students should expect to do 50-150 pages of reading per week as part of the **course requirements**, to wit:

Reading, attendance, discussion, critical engagement (20% of grade)

Two short response papers (40% total) to the reading of a week of your choosing, due Sept 24 and Nov 5

Two short praxis assignments, the results to be presented in class (20% total), Sept 10 and Oct 22

One longer paper or project due a week after the last class (I’m open about what form this final paper or project takes) (20%). **Enrollment in History MA or PhD Program or Permission of Instructor.**