



FACULTY OF POLITICAL  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



GHENT  
UNIVERSITY

# HOW TO DECOLONIZE THE UNIVERSITY?

REFLECTIONS AND PRACTICES AT  
THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

PUBLIC LECTURE AND WORKSHOP SERIES

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# HOW TO DECOLONIZE THE UNIVERSITY?

Let's start with the obvious: there is no decolonizing the University, but we can work towards better.

Calls for the decolonization of society in general, and of specific sectors and institutions in particular, not in the least universities, are gaining traction in recent years. Grounded in longstanding traditions of anticolonial resistance and decolonial and postcolonial studies, these critiques have gained momentum with the international reverberations – including in Belgium – of the Black Lives Matter movement, targeting systemic and institutional racism. Decolonization refers to a much needed reckoning with the colonial past, but it also and especially requires tackling the colonial present: it challenges global inequalities and their local articulations – at the intersection of racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination – that reproduce colonial power relations in the present. Universities, as powerful spaces where knowledge about the world is produced and taught, are among the institutions that are at the heart of the contestation, as evidenced by the international and local calls by students to decolonize the University, from Rhodes Must Fall to the Open Letter “[Decolonize UGent.](#)”

In response to this latter call, the **Learning Network on Decolonisation of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of Ghent University** aims to initiate activities to decolonize education, research and services to students and staff. The network brings together students, lecturers and researchers to co-learn and to co-create knowledge and practices to change what we teach and study and how we do it. For more information on the Learning Network and updates on its activities, enroll on the [Ufora page](#) or [sign up for the e-mail list](#).

With this **Public Lecture and Workshop Series**, the Network wants to address Eurocentrism in the curricula, as well intersectional inequalities in education and research. In this year-long series, local and international experts will offer insights and hands-on training for staff and students on racism and sexism in academia, and the decolonisation of the curriculum, teaching and research methods. Attendance is free, but registration is required.



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## UPCOMING READING GROUPS, LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

### **April 25, 2024 (13:00-16:00) - Lecture by Prof. Folúké Adébisí**

Book presentation on the implication of law and legal knowledge in both colonialism and the racialised hierarchies which create and preserve acute global disparities and injustices.

[Register here:](https://bit.ly/FolukeAdebisi) <https://bit.ly/FolukeAdebisi> - Organised by the Faculty of Law

### **April and May - Reading Group Beatriz Nascimento**

Book: *The Dialectic Is in the Sea: The Black Radical Thought of Beatriz Nascimento* (2023).

Feminist political economy of Nascimento on relations between Brazil and the African continent.

Registration: Email [Allan Souza Queiroz](mailto:Allan.SouzaQueiroz@UGent.be) (Allan.SouzaQueiroz@UGent.be)

### **May 2024 (tbc) - Film Screening: Ôrí**

Screening of the 1989 documentary *Ôrí*, directed by filmmaker and sociologist Raquel Gerber. The film features Beatriz Nascimento as main protagonist and guiding voice.

In cooperation with Labo Vzw - More info to follow

### **May 22, 2024 (18:30-20:30) - Film Screening + Artist Talk: Zwarte Ibis (NL)**

The short film 'Zwarte Ibis' is an afro-surrealistic reverie, poetically re-imagining our contemporary conceptions of relationships with the self and with imagined communities.

Artist talk with director Dr. Emma-Lee Amponsah and theatre maker Mathieu Charles

[Register here:](https://event.ugent.be/registration/Zwartelbis) <https://event.ugent.be/registration/Zwartelbis>

### **May 23, 2024 (time tbc) - Book presentation by Maya Wind**

Book: *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli Universities Deny Palestinian Freedom* (2024)

More info to follow

### **October 21, 2024 (time tbc) - Lecture by Dr. Nozizwe Dube**

More info to follow

### **October 23, 2024 (10:00-12:15) - Workshop by Prof. David Mwambari**

This workshop invites early-career scholars and students to unpack the politics embedded in the processes of knowledge production within interdisciplinary research, to challenge conventional epistemologies and explore alternative methodologies.

[Register here:](https://event.ugent.be/registration/DavidMwambari) <https://event.ugent.be/registration/DavidMwambari>

## PAST LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

### **Doctoral School - Challenging The Mainstream: Critical, Post(-)colonial, and Decolonial theory**

November- December. [More info here:](https://bit.ly/DoctoralSchoolLND) <https://bit.ly/DoctoralSchoolLND>

### **Toni Hastrup - Dangerous Liaisons: When Critical Approaches Go Mainstream**

November 20, 2023 (16:30-18:00) - Lecture - Campus Ufo: T2 Walter Soete