

## **Facing the traps of decolonial critiques and opening up for other ways of existing inside/outside/beyond academia**

### **Conveners:**

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### **Panelists:**

Francesca Helm, Universidad de Padova\* (Italy)

Hiba Ibrahim, York University (Palestine/Jordania)

Francesca DellOlio, University of London (Italy/Brasil)

\* These speakers will be present at the conference

As scholars located in the epistemic and geopolitical global south, marked by the colonial difference in terms of race, gender, class, and religion, we are interested in learning from/with decolonial studies and global south epistemologies. From this space, we often find ourselves in a contradictory position: While we may acknowledge modernity and coloniality as the two faces of the same coin, the exercise of identifying ourselves as complicit in harm, and yet compromised and accountable for the construction of different cosmologies poses a great challenge for us (Silva et al., 2023).

In this panel, we have two goals. Firstly, we intend to make visible how decolonial critiques may operate as traps that serve modernity/coloniality. One of those traps is the very notion that the decolonial critiques produced in academia alone will mobilize alternative ways of behaving/thinking/relating in this institution (Andreotti et al., 2015). This includes the belief that investing in critical spaces with decolonial intentions without giving up our privileges and accesses will make us less committed to the harm produced by modernity/coloniality. Secondly, we aim to share our experience of creating collective spaces of care, active listening, and affection, which have served to make us aware of the colonial traps that constitute us. These spaces continually invite us to sustain a hyper-self-reflexive attitude in which vulnerability, humility, and affect are generative forces to gesture towards an otherwise.

Our final intention is to hold space to identify the traps and enable us to imagine and enact projects that go beyond the modern/colonial imaginary.

### **References**

- Andreotti, V. de O., Stein, S., Ahenakew, C., & Hunt, D. (2015). Mapping interpretations of decolonization in the context of higher education. *Decolonization, Indigeneity, Education and Society*, 4(1).

Silva, J. E., Martínez, J., & Chiappa, R. (2023). Um pouco mais de calma: Identifying the Trampas of Decolonizing Internationalization of Higher Education and Academy in the Global South. *Journal of Comparative & International Higher Education*, 15(5), 128–142. <https://doi.org/10.32674/jcihe.v15i5.5823>

#### Organization of the panel

- Slide of departure:
  - Decolonial scholarship
  - How we understand the decolonial work in our context
  - What are the traps that we have identified
- Questions:
  - How do we see ourselves going beyond those traps?