



VRIJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
BRUSSEL

**IMMRC (KULeuven), Fatima Mernissi Chair/RHEA and Race & Research Network (VUB)**

**organize reading sessions on**

**Decolonial and Critical Approaches to Muslim Studies and Islamophobia**

How can we, as scholars of Islamic and Muslim Studies as well as the Humanities and the Social Sciences at large, understand and possibly further develop a decolonial approach to the study of Islamicate traditions and communities in the context of the global War on Terror? We aim to grapple with this central question through an engagement with a variety of texts from the burgeoning field of Critical Muslim Studies and Islamophobia.

Departing from a discussion on the connection between Islamophobia and racism in the modern world and its reverberation in Western epistemology, we will unpack the different trends in Muslim and Islamophobia Studies and exchange on the connections between Islam, racism and decolonization. Ultimately our aim is to stimulate an intellectual practice that allows for critical delinking from our Western episteme so as to reorient our gaze and efforts towards the decolonial perspectives that can be found in Islamicate practices and traditions.

We are inspired by the following projects: [www.criticalmuslimstudies.co.uk](http://www.criticalmuslimstudies.co.uk) and [www.dialogoglobal.com/granada](http://www.dialogoglobal.com/granada).

The reading groups sessions will take place **from 14-16h** on **23 October 2020, 18 December 2020, 12 February 2021, 23 April 2021 & 18 June 2021**. We will meet live at **the Brussels City Campus @ BOZAR\*** (entrance via koningsstraat 10) as long as it is possible under COVID measures. An online alternative is secured if circumstances change.

Attendance is free but **registration is required** via [iman.lechkar@vub.be](mailto:iman.lechkar@vub.be)

**Session 1: 23 October from 14-16h,**

Grosfoguel, R. and Mielants, E. (2006) The Long-Durée Entanglement Between Islamophobia and Racism in the Modern/Colonial Capitalist/Patriarchal World-System: An Introduction, *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*: Vol. 5 (1), P1-11.

Grosfoguel, R. (2010) Epistemic Islamophobia and Colonial Social Sciences, *Human Architecture: Journal of the Sociology of Self-Knowledge*, Vol 8 (2), p.29-38.

Mignolo, Walter (2010) Epistemic Disobedience, Independent Thought and Decolonial Freedom, *Theory, culture & society*, 2010, Vol.26 (7-8), p.159-181

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\* We can use Brussels City Campus @ BOZAR thanks to support of the Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie to weKONEKT.brussels

**Session 2: 18 December 14-16h**

Sayyid, S. (2014). *Recalling the Caliphate: decolonisation and world order*, London: Hurst.

**Session 3: 12 February 14-16h**

Farid, H. (2018) Schools of Thought in Islamophobia Studies: Prejudice, Racism, and Decoloniality, *Islamophobia studies journal*, 2018-04-01, Vol.4 (2), p.211-225

----- (2020) Unwanted Identities: The 'Religion Line' and Global Islamophobia, *Development* (Society for International Development), 2020-03, Vol.63 (1), p.9-19

Kazi, N. (2020): Reform, Abolition, and Decoloniality: Framing Islamophobia, *Political theology : the journal of Christian Socialism*, Vol.21 (5), p.455-460

**Session 4: 23 April 14-16h**

**Morsi, Y. (2017).** *Radical skin, moderate masks: de-radicalising the Muslim and racism in post-racial societies*, New York : Rowman & Littlefield International.

**Session 5: 18 June 14-16 and 16h10-18h (Evaluation session and summer drinks)**

Mulhem, H., Pilotti, M., El Alaoui, K. & Abdulaziz Al Kuhayli, H. (2019) Islamic Knowledge or Saudi Knowledge? Female Religious Students and the Problem of Cultural Norms in a Changing Arabian Society, *Religious Education*, DOI: 10.1080/00344087.2019.1677987

Daifallah, Y. (2019). The Politics of Decolonial Interpretation: Tradition and Method in Contemporary Arab Thought, *The American Political Science Review*; Washington Vol. 113, Iss. 3, (Aug 2019): 810-823. DOI:10.1017/S000305541900011X