

CGHE Annual Conference 24-25 May 2022: Session details



PANEL – Coloniality and racism in higher education

25 May 2022, 10.30-11.30am (UK)

Chair: Xin Xu

Speakers: Sharon Stein, Riyad Shahjahan, Solomon Zewolde and David Mills

Coloniality and racism shape global higher education and research. However, challenges to such injustice and inequity have never ceased. Anti-racism and decolonial movements, activities, scholarships, pedagogies and voices are manifest in various forms. They call for critical reflections on and radical changes to racialised cultures and colonial imprints, and the rethinking, relearning, reimagining and remaking of global higher education and research. Meanwhile, anti-racism and decolonisation also suggest questions and are confronted with challenges. This panel brings together four critical scholars working in this field, who draw on empirical research to critically reflect upon decolonisation and anti-racism in higher education and research.

Among the speakers, **Sharon Stein** will offer a social cartography of different, and not necessarily mutually exclusive approaches to engaging change in relation to coloniality and racism in higher education. She will also ask what kind of education could prepare those of us who work and study in higher education to hold space for the intellectual, affective, and relational difficulties that inevitably arise in efforts to confront colonialism in higher education. **Riyad Shahjahan** will introduce Whiteness as futurity framework (Shahjahan & Edwards, 2022), and its three components: Whiteness as aspiration, investment, and malleability. He will next offer a critical race temporal account of contemporary mobility trends in global higher education, namely: mobility of imaginaries, mobility of people, and mobility of resources. Whiteness as futurity uncovers the ways in which local subjects do not autonomously direct local higher education processes, but instead are influenced by the global pressures of Whiteness. **Solomon Zewolde** will question why progress to decolonise the HE curriculum is so disappointingly slow despite a burgeoning publication of critical texts and the proliferation of initiatives that purport to fight coloniality and racism in higher education. Using Marcuse's concept of 'repressive tolerance', he will discuss how higher education institutions perpetuate and maintain racism and coloniality through Eurocentric epistemology and pedagogical practices and silence and ignore voices calling for radical changes. **David Mills** will critically examine the bibliometric coloniality. He will argue that the metricisation of the global academic publishing economy is devaluing the credibility of African scholarly journals, reinforcing academic coloniality and deepening epistemic exclusion. David will explore the neo-coloniality of this credibility economy, and the amplification of the emotive discourse around so-called 'predatory' publishing by commercial actors.

Sharon Stein is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia in Canada, and a Visiting Professor with the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University in South Africa.

Riyad A. Shahjahan is an Associate Professor of Higher, Adult and Life Long Education (HALE) at Michigan State University.

Solomon Zewolde is a part-time Lecturer both at the University of East London and at University College London (UCL).

David Mills is Deputy Director of CGHE. An Associate Professor in the Department of Education at Oxford, he is also a CGHE Co-Investigator on Project 9, 'Mapping supranational higher education space'.