

Leipzig African Studies ' & Social Anthropology's joint lecture series on "Beyond Debates: De/colonial Practices In and Across Academia"

After decades of discussions about the need to decolonize academic and public spheres, questions of de/coloniality are still virulent in and across academia. Therefore, we want to take stock: What has been achieved by academics, politicians, artists and activists since independence, and what challenges remain for the next generations? What are the decisions and policies in everyday practice that perpetuate coloniality?

Funding structures and policies for research often still follow economic and security interests which strive for the conservation of "northern" hegemony. What can decolonial research look like against this backdrop? Good academic practice in the old and new centers of power is still often implicitly defined according to Anglo-Saxon standards. This excludes "non-northern" journals and languages other than English, as well as academics socialized and educated in the "south". How do we deal with the issue of dominant languages and the challenges of developing decolonizing practices of translation?

Beyond academia: How do we undo colonial practices of representation in museums and cultural institutions? What is done in the political and development field to take coloniality into account in policy making and international relations? Taking these questions closer to home, how do policies on a national level address the predominant whiteness in public institutions? In other words: How do we embrace and present the multiple narratives and voices which are part of the global humanity?

In order to be effective and transformative, the call for decolonization has to move beyond debates. Decolonial practices have to break up academic boundaries and hierarchies. Taking practice seriously, we propose various forms of presentations by a wide range of actors and concerning projects related to academia, museum, arts, politics and civil society.