



Venice International University Summer School

Global Mental Health and Human Rights: perspectives on environmental, gender and economic racism

July 22-26, 2024

Faculty

Guido Veronese, University of Milano-Bicocca
Francesca Antonacci, University of Milano-Bicocca
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Alex L. Pieterse, Boston College
Brinton Lykes, Boston College
Francesco Vacchiano, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Sabrina Marchetti, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Giulia Zanini, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Gaia Giuliani, CES - University of Coimbra
Ruchi Chaturvedi, University of Cape Town
Ashraf Kagee, Stellenbosch University
Lou Marie Kruger, Stellenbosch University

Program

Day 1 | Monday, July 22

9:00-9:30 *Registration, group division and Summer School Presentation*

CRITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND SELF-REFLECTION

The belief of the main convenors of this summer school is that personal experiences and memories will come together to create a powerful and inspiring experience, resulting in poetic and creative testimonies. The goal of this experience is to create counter-spaces that challenge conventional ideas and collective documents that can serve as a starting point for decolonizing mental health.

9:30-11:00 Critical consciousness and self-reflection/Meeting 1 (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese, Francesca Antonacci)

MODULE RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

This module assumes that doctoral students have been trained in the technical aspects of research methods. As such, the module will be a critical reflection of methodology with cross cutting issues of power, privilege, and human rights in a global context., social inequality, The method of instruction will be a combination of presentations by the lecturers, small group discussions, and plenary discussions.

11:00-13:00 Research methodologies/Lecture 1: Gender, inequalities and access to health. An introduction to feminist perspectives in research (Giulia Zanini)

13:00-14:00 *Lunch Break*

14:00-15:30 Research methodologies/Lecture 2: The importance of epistemology in health research. Doing Responsible Research Responsibly (Ashraf Kagee)

15:30-16:00 *Break*

16:00-17:00 Keynote lecture (Ilan Pappé)

Day 2 | Tuesday, July 23

9:00-9:30 Critical consciousness & self-reflection/Meeting 2 (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese, Francesca Antonacci)

9:30-11:00 Research methodologies/Lecture 3: The role of subjectivity in Psychological Measurement: limitations of the Positivist approach (Alex Pieterse)

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:00 Research methodologies/Round Table (Ashraf Kagee, Sabrina Marchetti and Alex Pieterse)

13:00-14:00 *Lunch Break*

MODULE PRACTICE

This module emphasizes the importance of embracing diverse knowledge systems and resisting the uncritical transplantation of concepts, calling for a pluriversity of

knowledge over a universal one. Using the Palestinian case as a focal point, the discussion delves into the entanglement of psychology with coloniality and its tendency to overlook the root causes of oppression. The module centers and explores Palestinian sumud (steadfastness) as an alternative concept to the Western-centric model of resilience. Sumud as a praxis is rooted in struggle, wellbeing, resistance, dignity, justice, and harmony. This module probes the potential of approaching sumud as an analytical lens to diagnose power relations and critical consciousness.

14:00-16:00 Practice/Lecture 1: Unveiling the Entanglement of Psychology with Coloniality through the Lens of Palestinian Sumud (Rami Rmeileh)

Day 3 | Wednesday, July 24

9:00-9:30 Critical consciousness & self-reflection/Meeting 3 (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese)

9:30-11:00 Practice/Lecture 2: Political Violence, Subjectivity and Culpability. How is political violence lived and navigated by those who enact it? (Ruchi Chaturvedi)

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Practice/Lecture 3: Role of Psychology in subtle forms of racialization: Impact of border policies in Western countries (Francesco Vacchiano)

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

MODULE THEORIES

This module assumes that most students experienced teaching/learning in institutions grounded in and dominated by Euro/American/Western onto-epistemologies, with a strong emphasis on their humanities and social sciences and driven by their research methods and applications of findings. As such, this module introduces participants to a range of critical approaches to these dominant perspectives, moving beyond critique to explore a range of alternative ways of knowing, being, and doing. The latter will draw on knowledges generated across Global Souths and Norths by the resistance against coloniality and related structural oppressions, and informed by or in dialogical relationships with Indigenous and pluriversal epistemologies. We will discuss selected psychosocial responses to some of the multiple challenges of the 20th and 21st centuries including forced displacement, mass migrations and gross violations of human rights as survivor-protagonists seek truth, redress and healing justice. The module includes a combination of presentations by those of us who organized the module and selected the readings and media, group discussions, participatory experiences, and plenary interactions and performances.

14:00-16:00 Theories/Introduction of participants and resource facilitators (Gaia Giuliani and Brinton Lykes) + Lecture 1: Post-slavery, racial capitalism and Anthropocenic Modernity (Gaia Giuliani)

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-18:00 Practice/Round table (Rami Rmeileh, Ruchi Chaturvedi and Francesco Vacchiano)

Evening: Social dinner

Day 4 | Thursday, July 25

- 9:00-9:30 Critical consciousness & self-reflection/Meeting 4 (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese)
- 9:30-11:00 Theories/Lecture 2: Liberating psychology: Decolonization and pluralization practice. Transformative Processes and Enabling Conditions (Brinton Lykes)
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee break*
- 11:30-13:00 Theories/Lecture 3: Importance of racial equality in human rights. Future implications of transitional justice (Brinton Lykes)
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break*
- 14:00-16:00 Critical consciousness and self-reflection/Meeting 5 (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese)

Day 5 | Friday, July 26

- 9:00-9:30 Critical consciousness & self-reflection/Meeting 6 (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese)
- 9:30-11:00 Theories/Round Table (Brinton Lykes and Gaia Giuliani)
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee break*
- 11:30-13:00 Critical consciousness & self-reflection/Meeting 7 (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese)
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch Break*
- 14:00-15:00 Critical consciousness and self-reflection/Critical action and advocacy (Lou-Marie Kruger, Guido Veronese)
- 15:00-16:00 Critical action and advocacy and final remarks