

CALL FOR PAPERS

NOVEMBER 22nd–24th, 2022

»CLIMATE COLONIALITY«: MECHANISMS, EPISTEMOLOGIES, SPACES OF RESISTANCE

This virtual workshop focuses on the myriad ways and mechanisms with which the fight against climate change and new patterns of colonial domination in both the global North and South are intertwined. It is hosted by the Centre for Advanced Studies »Futures of Sustainability« at the University of Hamburg, Germany, and supported by the Instituto de Bioética and the Facultad de Filosofía, of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana at Bogotá, Colombia.

The workshop forms the basis for a special issue proposal that will be submitted to an international peer-reviewed journal. For this purpose, we invite the submission of short abstracts up to 350 words. Selected participants will be invited to submit conference papers of approx. 2500 words. The contributions can be singled or multi-authored.

Submission of short abstracts: June 15th, 2022
Notification of participants: July 15th, 2022
Submission of conference papers: October 1st, 2022

Please submit abstracts to:
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HUMANITIES CENTRE FOR
ADVANCED STUDIES
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»CLIMATE COLONIALITY«: MECHANISMS, EPISTEMOLOGIES, SPACES OF RESISTANCE

The search for technical and market-oriented solutions to combat climate change is in full swing. Electric vehicles, the massive expansion of renewable energies, green hydrogen, geoengineering, as well as carbon trading, are key issues of global climate politics and increasingly influencing national and supranational agendas. Moreover, the current war in Ukraine has clearly revealed the urgency and the geopolitical significance of finding viable alternatives to cease the excessive dependency from fossil fuels. Notwithstanding their actual relevance for reducing CO₂-emissions, these climate solutions, however, are often associated with environmental injustices and neocolonial dependencies. Sultana (2022) has recently introduced the term »climate coloniality« to outline the intertwined material and epistemological violences that are expressed historically, spatially, and intersectionally. She argued that decolonizing climate imaginations and solutions are necessary, which involves tackling with »the complexities of colonialism, imperialism, capitalism, and development in the reproduction of ongoing colonialities through existing global governance structures, discursive framings, material outcomes, and imagined futures« (ibid., 10). In particular, the direct and indirect land requirements that are needed for the green transition, e.g. for the construction of wind farms, solar parks, or the production of lithium ion batteries, are causing environmental harm, land grabs, local conflicts, and a new wave of green extractivism (Dunlap, 2021; Voskoboynik and Andreucci, 2021).

Furthermore, the mechanisms of carbon offsetting carry the risk of concealing historical responsibilities for climate change, while they legitimize further emissions and »business as usual« in industrial centers (Bachram, 2004). In a similar vein, geoengineering technologies, which are seen by some as a last-ditch measure, are evoking resistance from the climate justice movement and (yet to be) affected indigenous groups for violating their right to self-determination and perpetuating colonial dominance (Whyte, 2018). At the same time, research on technological intervention options is being carried out without sufficient involvement of the global South, although these regions are already severely affected by the consequences of climate change (Rahman et al., 2018). Finally, not least since the declaration of the Anthropocene, that is criticized for entrenching a colonial logic (Simpson, 2020), the need for scrutinizing the epistemological and ontological underpinnings of climate science seems greater than ever (Lövbrand et al., 2015).

This workshop focuses on the myriad ways and mechanisms with which the fight against climate change and new patterns of colonial domination in both the global North and South are intertwined. We are also interested in work that discusses how climate and environmental change research and governance maintain and reinforce colonial epistemologies and power relations. Beyond that, we will especially look at counter-narratives and imaginaries, spaces of resistance, and attempts to decolonize climate change in favor of plural ways of knowledge creation.

Therefore, we invite scholars to send us proposals for contributions that are oriented e.g. towards the following themes and questions:

- How and to which degree are climate change mitigation actions and coloniality inter-related?
- What kinds of mechanisms are causing new forms of »climate coloniality«? Who are the actors involved? Who are the affected groups?
- How does »climate coloniality« spatialize? What kind of environmental injustices does it engender?
- Which concepts and theories help to grasp and to understand the phenomenon of »climate coloniality«?
- What kind of counter-narratives exist that attempt to decolonize climate science and action?
- What is the role of place-based epistemologies in the mobilization of imaginaries for climate and environmental justice?

We are mostly interested in contributions that reflect empirical-based scholarship. However, we are also open to theory-driven papers. In addition, there will be a special session that aims at reflecting on the academic debates together with invited activists and representatives from social movements.

ORGANISATION

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