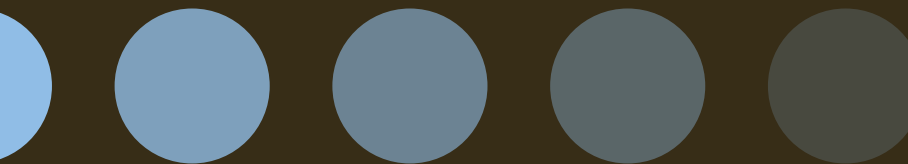
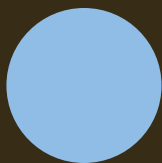


The Dictionary of Coloniality



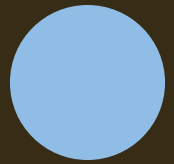
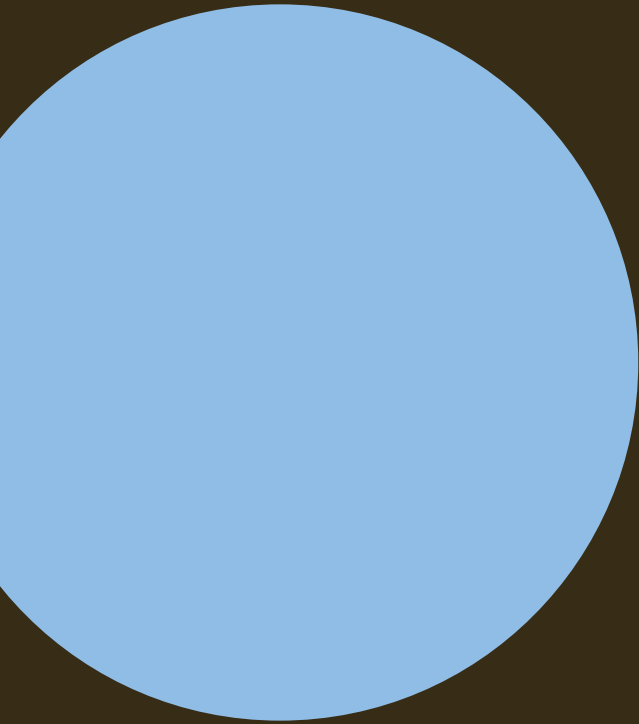
Colonisation
Colonialism
Settler colonialism
Exploitation colonialism
Coloniality
Decolonisation
Empire
Imperialism
Identity
Gender
Feminism(s)


The Dictionary of Coloniality



The Dictionary of Coloniality has been collaboratively developed by Caterina Pislari and Mariam Yeghiazaryan within the framework of the Decolonisation Non-Conference: Shaping Futures— Cultures in Dialogue for Decolonisation and Democracy. The brochure was designed by the CSN Lab.

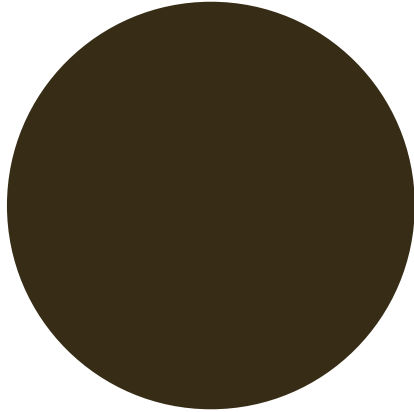
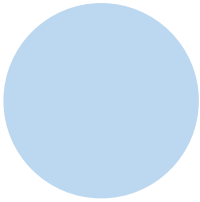
Colonisation	5
Colonialism	6
Settler colonialism	7
Exploitation colonialism	8
Coloniality	9
Decolonisation	10
Empire	11
Imperialism	12
Identity	13
Gender	14
Feminism(s)	15





The act of the conquest and exploitation of territories and people through a combination of military, political, cultural, and economic strategies. This process takes various forms, including extracting economic and natural resources, acquiring knowledge about the local ground and climate, and imposition of cultural dominance. It frequently involves replacing the indigenous language with that of the conqueror and controlling the knowledge about the colonised people and their lands.

Despite the evident violence against colonised people, colonisation is often portrayed as non-violent and voluntary. Conquest wars can be omitted from history, and colonisation can be depicted as cultural, where the colonised are provided with the “**gift of civilisation**” such as schools (including boarding schools where children are separated from their parents and taught the “**right culture**”), medicine (replacing indigenous practices typical to the local context), and culture (instead of the “**barbaric**” local one). If conquests are acknowledged and remain in history, they are referred to as “**liberation wars**”.



An economic and political system based on the process of colonisation and exploitation of the resources of colonised land and people, characterised by the maintenance of direct control over the colonies.

Colonisation is a process that does not unfold overnight. It involves not only the establishment of a political structure to support colonial wars but also the creation of a civilian infrastructure that allows the coloniser to maintain control even after military conflicts have concluded.

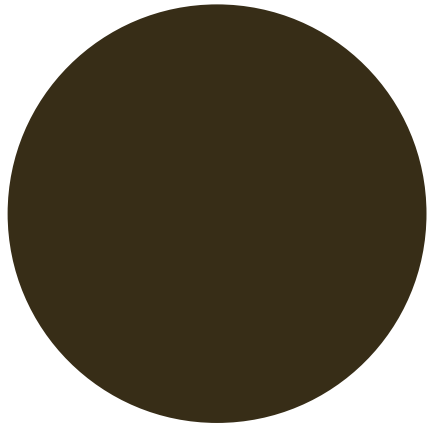
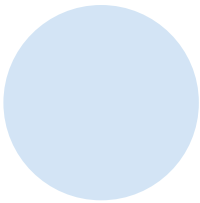
Settler colonialism



This type of colonialism aims largely to displace native populations with settlers, involving a large-scale migration of people from the metropole to colonies for the establishment of settlements. The primary objective is the seizure of land, with land itself being the principal resource and value. It is conceptualised by colonisers as “empty”, viewing native populations as obstacles to obtaining it.

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, the United States, and Uruguay are examples of countries created or expanded in their contemporary form by settler colonisation.

Exploitation colonialism



Focuses on the exploitation of natural resources and labour of native people, as well as imported slave labour to the benefit of the metropole. Unlike settler colonialism, this form does not entail significant migration of settlers.

The European colonisation of Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean was predominantly conducted under the framework of exploitation colonialism.



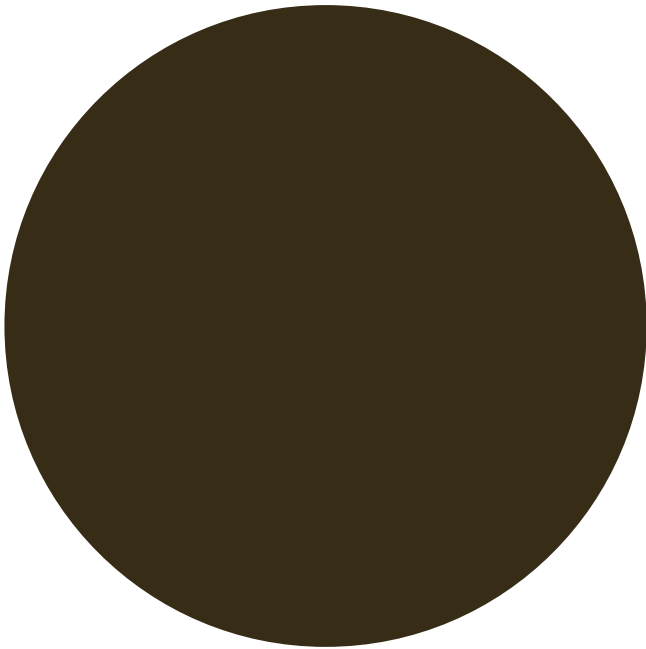
The long-term global power structure that was formed as a result of colonialism. The term was introduced by **Anibal Quijano**, who argued that the concept of the “**coloniality of power**” began to emerge in the 16th century. It interconnects the development of race (racism), labour control (capitalist exploitation), state control, subjectivity (including gender and sexuality), and control over knowledge production.

In essence, it signifies the establishment of the centralised Western knowledge monopoly in modern history, shaping the perspective that defines the relationship between the world and people. **Walter Mignolo** points out that the colonial power system served as the foundation for modern globalisation, positioning coloniality as the hidden side of modernity.

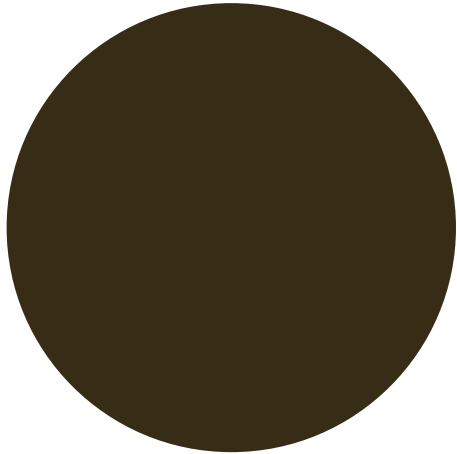
Decolonisation is the liberation from various forms of dependence on the coloniser's imposed concept of modernity, encompassing ontological, economic, social, racial, and knowledge dimensions. It is common to differentiate between decolonization, postcolonial state, and anti-colonialism. Anticolonialism questions the authority of colonial powers and often emerges independently of the conceptual frameworks associated with de- and post-colonial approaches, with its origins predating these conceptual movements.



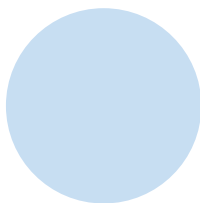
The postcolonial state is marked by the formalisation of legal sovereignty from the colonising power. For instance, the independence of post-Soviet countries from Russia can be seen as a postcolonial state. Postcoloniality does not signify the cessation of colonial power but denotes the legal independence of the colony from the colonising metropole. In this classification, decoloniality serves as a political framework focused on the complete elimination of all forms of dependence.



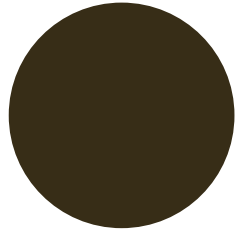
A political entity consisting of a metropole a political centre, and territories that were conquered — colonies, that form a subordinate periphery. The inhabitants of colonies typically belong to ethnic and religious groups distinct from those at the centre.



The persistent global state where some countries economically and culturally dominate others. This situation results from colonialism, during which empires extended their control to every continent. **Robert J.C. Young** explains that the “**idea**” of imperialism aimed to normalise colonial destruction as it evolved into a global system of domination.

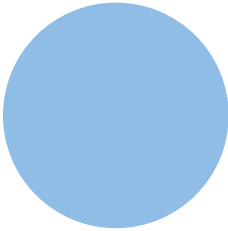


A way for a person to perceive their belonging to communities: social, economic, national, professional, linguistic, political, religious, cultural, gender, and racial. Since the 1970s, identity has been discussed in the context of social movements. Today, the term **“identity politics”** is widely used, describing how a certain group develops a political agenda around one or more elements of their own identity.



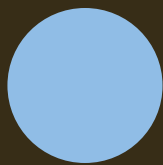
A type of identity, as well as a set of social roles assigned to masculinity or femininity. Unlike the biological and physiological distinctions denoted by the concept of "sex," "gender" pertains to cultural and social differences. As **Maria Lugones** notes, the production of the gender binary, a clear cultural division between men and women, was part of the colonisation process.

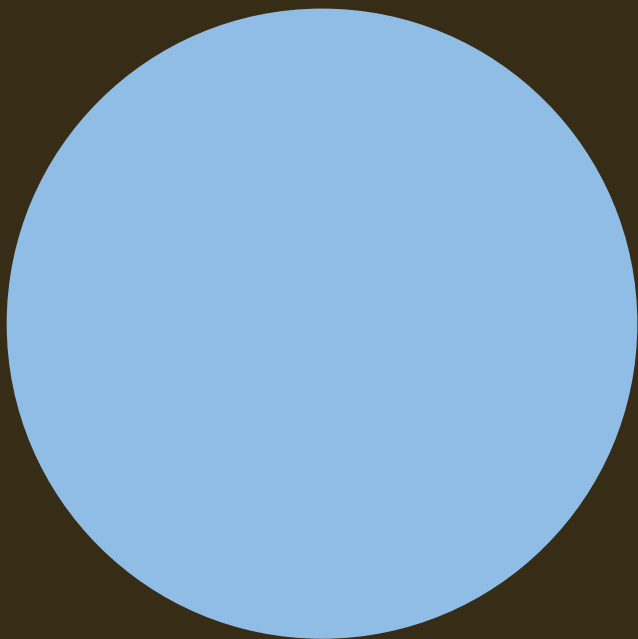
Lugones illustrates this phenomenon with the case of the Yoruba people in West Africa, where European colonisation contributed to the creation of gender inequality, subjecting Yoruba women to double oppression — both in terms of gender and colonial subjugation.



Socio-political movements that advocate for universal equality. Started as a movement for women's rights, today the feminist framework addresses various forms of discrimination, including classism, racism, ableism, and more. There are several types of feminisms, and historically, pivotal debates within the movement have focused on critiques of "**white middle-class feminism**" by non-white women, non-heterosexual women, transgender people, and people with disabilities.

The assembly of movements within feminism initiated by non-white communities are termed "**non-white feminisms.**" This includes Black feminism (which gave rise to the "**intersectionality**"), Chicano feminism, womanism, and other movements representing women of colour, as well as trans* and non-binary people.





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