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Toolbox

Approaches to Decolonizing Anthropology

> "Decolonization, which sets out to change the order of the world, is, obviously, a program of complete disorder. But it cannot come as a result of magical practices, nor of a natural shock, nor of a friendly understanding. Decolonization, as we know, is a historical process: that is to say it cannot be understood, it cannot become intelligible nor clear to itself except in the exact measure that we can discern the movements which give it historical form and content."
>
> Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth, 36.[1]

> "(...) the ubiquity of 'decolonisation' in all areas of thought – from literature, linguistics and philosophy, to politics, economics, sociology, psychology and medicine – indicates that either the idea packs an explanatory and/or analytical punch like no other, or it has simply become a catch-all trope, often used to perform contemporary 'morality' or 'authenticity'."
>
> Olúfẹ́mi Táíwò, Against Decolonisation: Taking African Agency Seriously, 4.[2]

What does it mean to 'decolonize' – not as an event but a process, a *program of complete disorder*? Over the course of the winter semester 2023/24, the

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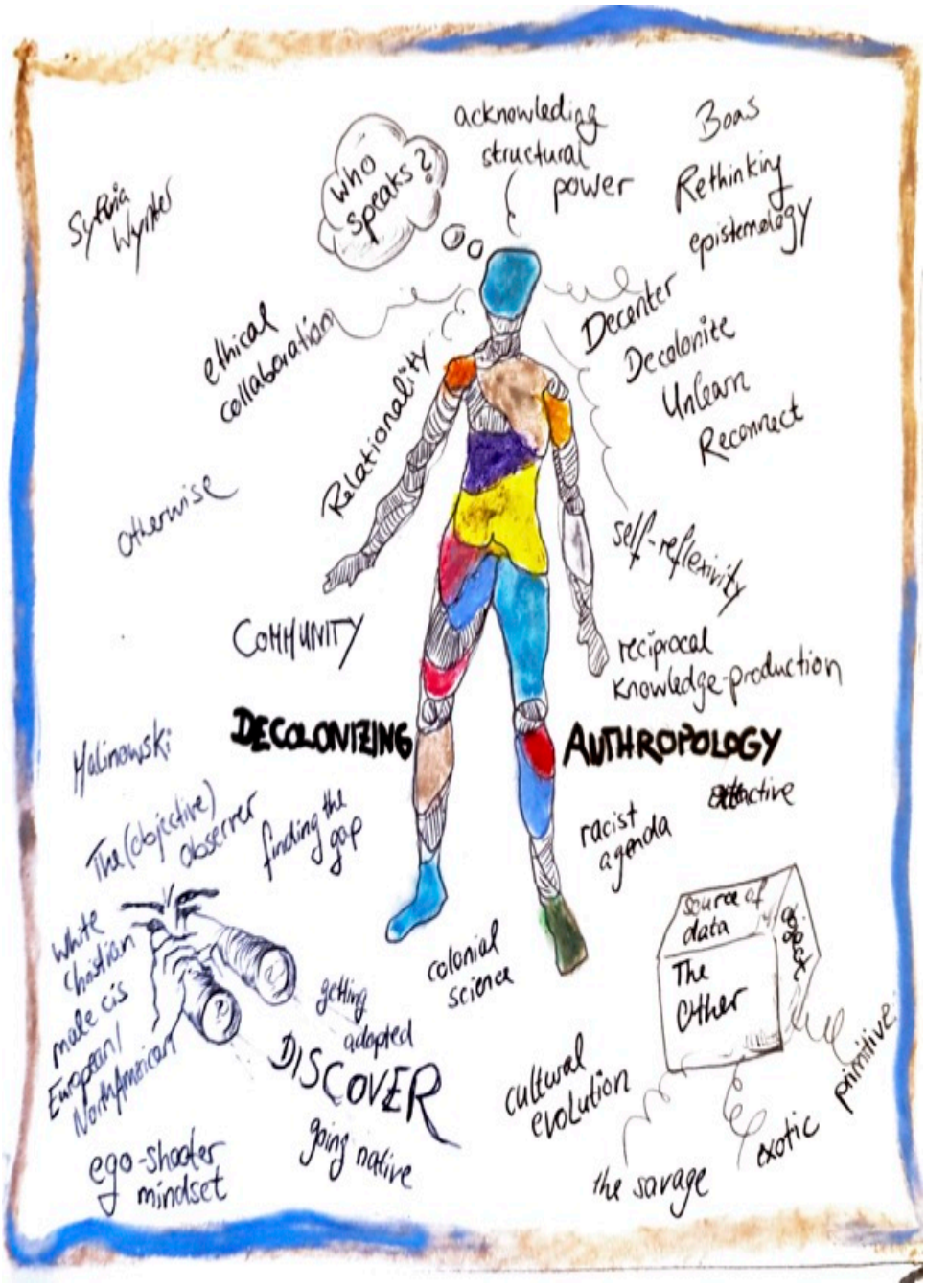
participants and speakers of the digital lecture series "Decolonizing Anthropology" have engaged with multiple perspectives and approaches to the decolonization of anthropology as a discipline, its research methods and ethics, and the institutions that produce anthropological knowledge.



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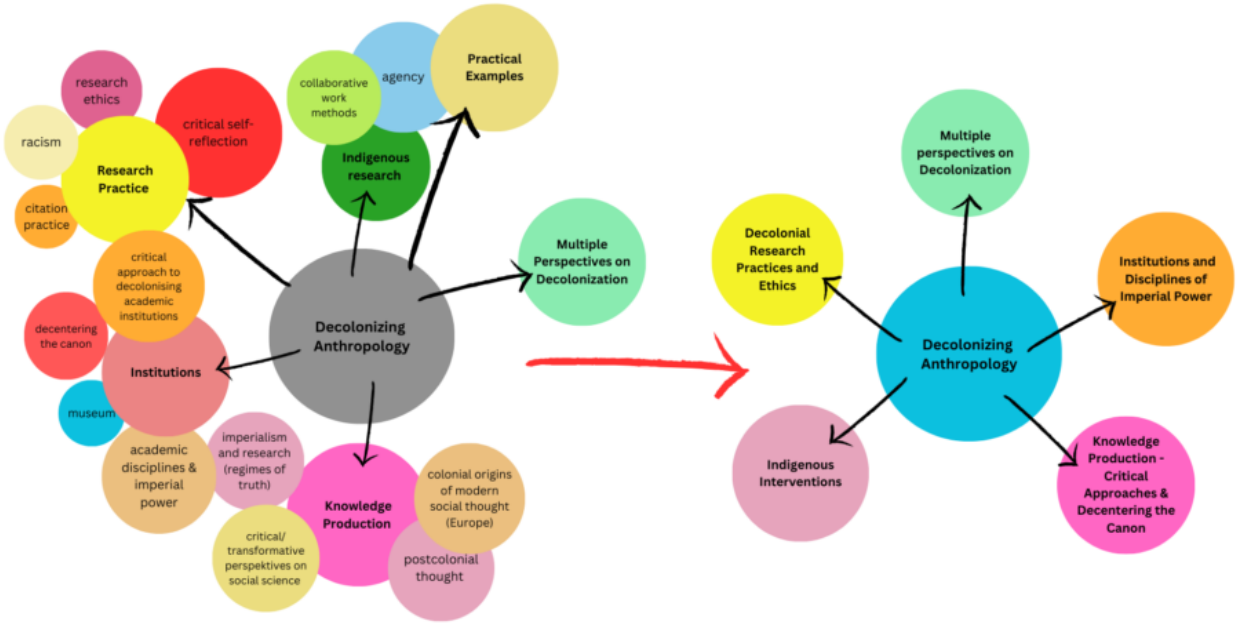
During these discussions, an abundance of books, articles, guidelines, and best practices were shared, which we want to make available here as an incomplete collection of tools that can grow and be revised throughout the second part of the lecture series in the summer semester 2024 and beyond. In an attempt to structure the various resources, we have categorized them into ***Multiple Perspectives on Decolonization***, ***Decolonial Research Practices and Ethics***, ***Indigenous Interventions***, ***Knowledge Production – Critical Approaches & Decentering the Canon***, and ***Institutions and Disciplines of Imperial Power***. Our process of categorization and mapping is visualized below.



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These categories do not serve as a break-down of what decolonization is. They are not static and often overlap. As the collection grows, we might have to adapt them. You are welcome to participate in this process and to suggest further resources in

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the comments. Please register here to join the second part of the digital lecture series.

Multiple Perspectives on Decolonization

Jansen, Jonathan D., ed. 2019. *Decolonisation in Universities: The Politics of Knowledge*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press. https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/decolonisation-in-universities/8E7FB99752D7EEE9D2E616BB6EB62A40.

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Decolonial Research Practices and Ethics

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Göpfert, Mirco, ed. n.d. 'Seminar Zu "Rassismus in Der Wissenschaft" - Herausforderung Der Vorbereitung Und Durchführung Rassismuskritischer Feldforschung'. BA- und MA-Studierende der Ethnologie/Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie an der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.

https://etherpad.wikimedia.org/p/rassismuskritische_Feldforschung.

'The Anti-Oppression Network – Safer Space Policies for Working Together'. *The Anti-Oppression Network* (blog). https://theantioppressionnetwork.com/resources/saferspacepolicy/.

Indigenous Interventions

Chilisa, Bagele. 2020. *Indigenous Research Methodologies*. Second edition. Los Angeles London New Delhi Singapore Washington DC Melbourne: SAGE. https://dokumen.pub/qdownload/indigenous-research-methodologies-2nbsped-1483333477-9781483333472.html.

Collaborative Indigenous Research Digital Garden

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MAI Journal: A New Zealand Journal of Indigenous Scholarship

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Institutions and Disciplines of Imperial Power – Museums

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Shahjahan, Riyad A., and Clara Morgan. 2016. 'Global Competition, Coloniality, and the Geopolitics of Knowledge in Higher Education'. *British Journal of Sociology of Education* 37 (1): 92–109. https://doi.org/10.1080/01425692.2015.1095635.

Footnotes

[1]Fanon, Frantz. The Wretched of the Earth. New York: Grove Press, 1963.
[2]Táíwò, Olúfẹ́mi. Against Decolonisation: Taking African Agency Seriously. London:

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