

"Postcolonial and Postsocialist Interdependencies in the Framework of Cross-Border Interactions"  
2023 Summer Semester Lecture Series  
Tuesdays, 15.00-16.30 / 18.00-19.30, starting 18. April

This summer lecture series offers an opportunity to explore the intersections and interdependencies between postcolonial and postsocialist relations. The lecture series is designed as a connected learning community and links students from different study programs in Dresden, Cottbus, Chemnitz, Freiburg, Fulda, Frankfurt a.M.

Students will engage with sociologists from different Universities who explore these relations in their research and teaching. Postcolonial and postsocialist relations are heterogeneous, historically and context-specific, and changeable. Nonetheless, their interactions collectively create specific patterns of cross-border dynamics of domination and subordination in the context of knowledge and power. "Developmentalist" agendas in the "Global East" and "international cooperation" with so-called "Global South" countries (Karkov & Valiavicharska 2018; Mignolo & Tlostanova 2006) are illustrative of these dynamics, as are contemporary patterns, policies and debates related to migration, belonging and membership, and collective memory. Exploring these relations, as well as their various articulations in practice, therefore hold critical implications for more precise understandings of the maintenance and production of social hierarchies and inequalities worldwide.

For example, how are postcolonial-postsocialist interdependencies (potentially) embedded in and shaping cross-border dynamics of globalization and transnationalization? How do specific patterns of coloniality (Westernized postcolonial, postsocialist and neocolonial) and their contingencies intersect with these cross-national processes? How are various patterns of coloniality (e.g. power/knowledge claims, disciplining techniques, patterns of inclusion/exclusion) articulated in similar, but also diverging ways temporally and spatially? How do colonialities and their multiplicities affect relations of dominance and subordination in the context of these cross-border processes at various scalar levels?

Invited speakers will address these questions over the course of the summer series, along with their implications for social analyses theoretically and empirically. All of the invited scholars center *cross-fertilization*, *pluralization* and *contextualization* as essential for understanding the relationship between postcolonial and postsocialist frameworks. Specifically, their research strives to address precisely how these frameworks and their entanglements inform cross-border dynamics of domination and subordination in multiple ways over time and in different contexts. Attention to the latter is essential for sociological work: accounts of precisely *how* power is articulated and produced through multiple, and sometimes diverging relations, logics and processes. Given the expertise of the invited speakers, the series privileges discussions on topics related to migration and mobility, the production of knowledge, social belonging and exclusion, and cultural heritage and memory to explore these relations and their variations. Both emerging and established scholars from various German institutions have been invited to present their relevant current and planned future research.

This lecture series is part of a larger nationwide initiative and project entitled "Reconstructing Interdependencies: Postcolonial and Postsocialist Relations in the Framework of Cross-Border Interactions". Comprised of both early-career and established sociologists from various academic institutions all over Germany, the project aims to conduct a systematic conceptual and empirical investigation of the interdependencies between postcolonialism(s) and postsocialism(s). The overall goal of the project is to simultaneously minimize Eurocentric and Occidental biases *and* account for the complexity and empirical variety of postsocialisms and postcolonialisms that transcend their current homologous, binary conceptualizations.