

Abstract

Along the COVID pandemic, 2020 has been marked by the strong re-emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement at a global scale. The pandemic makes even more explicit and evident to the public eye the dramatic conditions of inequality and ordinary violence experienced by those othered because of race, gender, class. Catalysed through the anti-racist demand of the BLM movement, there has been also a raising awareness and claim to decolonize the university, sparking acute debates related to the recognition of difference, representation and pluralism. How do these questions connect to the project of interdisciplinarity? In this brief presentation I want to explore the call to decolonize the university as another way of calling to engage further in promoting interdisciplinary dialogues and methodologies of teaching and research at the university. The time of the mono-disciplinary scientific university is clearly reaching its end: while when facing future, the challenges are wicked because they cannot be univocally addressed by any discipline on its own, the colonial past is haunting the foundations of those disciplinary fields of expertise in which many of us have been trained. In this talk I explore how decolonization matters for the past and future necessity for interdisciplinary studies.