British International Studies Association

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The politics of comparison and relationality: colonial grammars, knowledge production & counter-politics - Part II

Wednesday, 17 June 2020 13:00 (1h 30m)

This BISA roundtable is Part two of two that seek to extend a number of rolling conversations among IR scholars concerning the relations but also tensions within and between logics and forms of coloniality as well as the conditions under which anti-colonial activism and solidarity can take root. Inspired by the work of Stoler and McGranahan (2007), Lowe (2015) and Puar (2007), we seek to both examine how colonial linkages are shaped in and through (intimate) circuits of practice as well as how comparative/relational analytics can perform and produce additional modes of colonial governance, fractures and erasure. We will further these discussions through posing questions that consider the politics of comparison and relationality as inherently historical matters that can never be politically disinvested; and thus can contribute to but also efface the possibility of anti-colonial solidarities and movements. Taking this as guiding premise, the participants of this second panel will focus more explicitly on how dissenting to, revealing, practicing and/or producing new forms of relationality operate in modes of anti-colonial contestation, politics and critique. We will look at these themes from a variety of lenses, including indigenous epistemologies, anti-imperial and anti-colonial movements, academic knowledge production and the physical infrastructure that produces settler space. Again, the emphasis here is on contributing to new paradigms and practices for challenging colonial relations in the present.

Track Classification: Colonial, Postcolonial and Decolonial Working Group