

DECOLONISING THE CURRICULUM: CENTRES, INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

PURPOSE

This paper lists and summarises the work of dedicated UK higher education centres, institutions and associations that are involved in research and teaching on subjects relating to colonisation, post-colonialism, the Global South and decolonisation. The listing aims to provide access to specialist expertise, institutions, networks and resources to support academic staff endeavouring to decolonise their curricula. The resource has been compiled by the [All In! Regularising Ethnic Presence in the Curriculum](#) project team based at the University of Nottingham.

The descriptions of the activities of all the listed institutions have been derived from their websites, the links to which are also provided below.

1 AFRICAN STUDIES

1.1 Centre for Black Humanities, University of Bristol

The Centre seeks to foster the research in the Faculty of Arts around the artistic and intellectual work of people of African descent and create an international hub for Black Humanities research in Bristol. Current interdisciplinary projects include work on Black British Art, African small magazines, and UK Hip-Hop, ethics and social justice, slavery and its legacies, and race and genetics in contemporary fiction. The Centre is committed to reaching audiences outside the traditional university through a diverse programme of film screenings, reading groups, performances and research collaborations with local communities to generate impact in other areas including the cultural industries and higher education policy.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/research/centres/black-humanities/>

1.2 Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge

The Centre undertakes, promotes, and supports research and teaching about Africa as well as building academic engagement with African scholars and institutions. It does this through intensive and dynamic seminar series, workshops, public lectures, and conferences, as well as supporting a diverse array of student and faculty initiatives, from the Black Cantabs, to the Decolonising the Curriculum Faculty Research Group, to the Cambridge Africa Film Festival.

<https://www.african.cam.ac.uk/about>

2 CARIBBEAN STUDIES

2.1 Centre for Caribbean and Diaspora Studies (CCDS), Goldsmiths University of London

CCDS is an international resource and research centre for the study, promotion and dissemination of Caribbean and Diaspora culture. With a range of contemporary practitioners including writers, performers, oral historians, and technologists, it develops the representation and promotion of Caribbean cultural knowledge and heritage in the UK, and internationally. It does this through an exploration of historical and contemporary cultural practices throughout the globe.

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/caribbean/>

3 CHINESE STUDIES

3.1 Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies (CCCS), Durham University

CCCS is a multi-disciplinary research centre dedicated to the study of contemporary China and the wider East Asian region, specialising particularly in the fields of Business, Education, Law, Modern Languages and Culture, Geography, Government and International Politics and Political Economy. The Centre gains greatly from having one of the most significant collections on China and East Asia in the UK in Durham University Library. The Centre is strongly committed to collaborative research with its partners in China, including the training of new generations of specialists on the East Asian region.

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/china.studies/>

3.2 Lancaster University China Centre (LUCC)

LUCC provides an international platform to tackle global challenges through multi-disciplinary China expertise. LUCC is a focal point at Lancaster University for people interested in China and its relations with UK and the rest of the world. LUCC focuses on the big global challenges that face the world, where solutions cannot be found unless China's role is taken into account and tools and knowledge from a range of disciplines are combined to understand it. Informed by academic research, LUCC seeks to deliver significantly improved understanding of China in its global context and apply this understanding to support the improvement of living conditions, welfare and the environment in China, the UK, and internationally.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lucc/about/>

3.3 SOAS China Institute (SCI), SOAS University of London

SCI is a world-leading centre for China with more than 54 SOAS academics working on different aspects of China. SCI promotes interdisciplinary, critically informed research and teaching on China and offers expertise and insights across a wide spectrum of disciplines on

China to the wider worlds of government, business, media, education, the arts, NGOs and beyond. It works with colleagues at SOAS with expertise beyond China to promote collaborative research on China and its relations with the rest of the world, particularly in the rest of Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/china-institute/>

3.4 The British Association for Chinese Studies

The British Association for Chinese Studies is a non-political organisation which aims to encourage and promote Chinese studies in the United Kingdom, in particular by organising conferences, lectures, seminars and other appropriate activities, by disseminating information and by encouraging co-operation among persons and organisations concerned with the study of China. The Association represents the field of Chinese Studies in its entirety and plays an important role in liaising and consulting with other area studies organisations, with funding bodies, with China-related representative offices, with government departments and speaks on behalf of the field to media representatives.

<http://bacsuk.org.uk/about-us>

3.5 The Contemporary China Centre, University of Westminster

The Centre focuses on interdisciplinary research on China — broadly defined—which is grounded in cultural studies. Its work builds on Westminster's long-term commitment to Chinese studies at whose heart lies an engagement with Chinese language, cultural practice and production, and its critical analysis. The Centre's work is built on and informed by the University's unique collection of propaganda posters from the People's Republic.

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/research/groups-and-centres/contemporary-china-centre/about-us>

3.6 University of Oxford China Centre

The University of Oxford China Centre is a hub for various academic activities related to China at the University of Oxford. By bringing together academics and researchers from a broad range of disciplines, the China Centre fosters innovative collaborative initiatives and produces impactful research on China.

<http://www.chinacentre.ox.ac.uk/>

4 DIASPORA STUDIES/NETWORKS

4.1 Black Female Professors Forum (BFPF)

The goal of the Forum is to generate positive narratives to underpin successful pathways and trajectories for Black women in education. BFPF hopes to empower and engage Black women at every level in academia through collaboration, communication and consultation with like-minded partners and regulatory authorities. BFPF does this by tackling the virus of

institutional racism in higher education and challenging and changing any stigma surrounding Black academics and students.

<https://blackfemaleprofessorsforum.org/about/about/>

4.2 Black Studies Association

The Black Studies Association aims to build the discipline of Black Studies into a force in the UK. Black Studies is defined as:

- a) Study rooted in the lived and historical experiences of Africa and the African Diaspora.
- b) An interdisciplinary field of study that embraces work in the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and where relevant, the Natural Sciences.
- c) Committed to connecting into the struggles and experiences of communities outside of academia, uplifting Black communities across the African Diaspora and African continent and connecting Diaspora and continental communities.
- d) An intersectional field of study interested in exploring Blackness in relation to other identities and subject positions.
- e) Dedicated to a wider programme of decolonisation that unites the African Diaspora with oppressed groups across the globe.

<https://www.blackstudies.org.uk/>

4.3 The Black and Asian Studies Association (BASA)

The Association aims to foster research and disseminate information on the history of Black peoples in Britain. A Newsletter was published three times a year until 2013. BASA takes up issues with government departments and quangos, such as English Heritage re-Blue Plaques and much else, with the QCA on school curricula, and Museum, Libraries and Archives Council (now part of the Arts Council) regarding archives, libraries and museums. BASA has worked also on specific projects with other organisations such as the Runnymede Trust, CASBAH (a research project on resources for Caribbean Studies and the history of Black and Asian people in Britain), and the National Archives' website on the history of Black peoples in Britain since the mid-16th. century.

<http://www.blackandasianstudies.org/>

5 LATIN AMERICA

5.1 Centre for Contemporary Latin American Studies (CCLAS), University of Edinburgh

CCLAS aims to foster research collaborations between The University of Edinburgh and universities, institutions and organisations in the public and private sectors throughout Latin America. CCLAS was established in 2014 to strengthen knowledge networks, as well as cultural, social and institutional ties between the UK and Latin America. The Centre aims to foster activities rooted on: cultural exchange and understanding of the Latin America region,

through increasing international experiences and scholarship as well as through hosting key events; promoting and supporting research; and facilitating knowledge exchange and enterprise.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/contemporary-latin-american-studies/about>

5.2 Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge

The Centre was founded in 1966 to promote research and teaching on Latin America in the University. The Centre is linked to other Centres and Institutes of Latin American Studies in the United Kingdom through an informal Standing Conference of Directors of Centres, hosted regularly by the London Institute for the Study of the Americas. In addition to offering a taught MPhil course and doctoral studies, the Centre hosts postdocs, sponsors research projects, organises conferences and invites scholars from Latin America and universities around the world to speak at a series of events, including weekly seminars. It also maintains a library, a number of important Latin American journals and, an archive of Latin American films on DVD and VHS.

<http://www.latin-american.cam.ac.uk/about>

5.3 Exeter Centre for Latin American Studies (EXCELAS), University of Exeter

EXCELAS is dedicated to strengthening the existing expertise in Latin America in various departments at the University of Exeter, including Modern Languages, Archaeology, History, and Politics. It seeks to nurture the visibility of Latin American Studies, which broadly includes research and teaching that engages with Latin American relations with North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

<http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/modernlanguages/research/centres/excelas/>

5.4 Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), University of London

ILAS forms part of the University of London's School of Advanced Study and was previously a part of the Institute for the Study of the Americas. ILAS is a centre of excellence for research facilitation, serves the wider community through organising academic events, provides online research resources, publishes scholarly writings and hosts visiting fellows. It possesses a world-class library dedicated to the study of Latin America and is the administrative home of the Journal of Latin American Studies. The Institute supports scholarship across a wide range of subject fields in the humanities and cognate social sciences and actively maintains and builds ties with cultural, diplomatic and business organisations with interests in Latin America. ILAS has a mission to foster scholarly initiatives and develop networks of Latin Americanists and Caribbeanists at a national level, as well as to promote the participation of UK scholars in the international study of Latin America.

<https://ilas.sas.ac.uk/about-us>

6 MIDDLE EAST

6.1 Birmingham Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Birmingham

The Birmingham Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies specialises in Islam as a spiritual and historical reality, and the contemporary Middle East.

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/ptr/departments/theologyandreligion/research/islamic/index.aspx>

6.2 Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, Durham University

The Institute is a Social Science-focused academic institute of excellence, research-led in ethos and undertakes interdisciplinary activities involving political economists, political scientists, historians and Islamicists and other colleagues who focus on the study of the Middle East and the Muslim world in the widest sense. The Institute has substantial expertise in Muslim politics, Islamist movements, and Islamic political thought which, combined with existing excellence in Islamic political economy and finance in Durham Business School, provides a strong research and teaching profile in a field of broad academic and policy interest - Islam and politics. In addition, several members of staff work on the politics, political economy and international relations of the Gulf Arab states, the Maghreb, Egypt, Palestine/Israel, Yemen, Iran, Turkey, and Southeast Asia.

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/imeis/>

6.3 Institute of Middle East, Central Asia and Caucasus Studies (MECACS), University of St. Andrews

MECACS promotes cross-disciplinary education and research through the provision of fora and venues to academics and practitioners of History, International Relations, Social Anthropology and Film Studies. The Institute is a means of promoting a wider knowledge of these locales and to understand their importance to their respective disciplines.

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/ir/research/centres/mecacs/>

6.4 Institute of Middle Eastern Studies, King's College London

The Institute draws together staff and students from across King's College London working on the Middle East and North Africa. Based in a dozen departments, its over 30 faculty members are involved in research and expert analysis on every country in the region. The Institute organises a range of activities and events on the region including conferences, workshops, keynote addresses, seminars and book launches, many of which are open to the public.

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/imes/about/about>

6.5 LSE Middle East Centre

The Centre builds on LSE's long engagement with the Middle East and North Africa and provides a central hub for the wide range of research on the region carried out at LSE. The Centre works to enhance understanding and develop rigorous research on the societies, economies, politics and international relations of the region. The Centre promotes specialised knowledge, public understanding, interdisciplinary research and regional expertise. The Centre harnesses the expertise of LSE's academic staff to promote innovative multidisciplinary research and understanding of the region.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/middle-east-centre/about>

6.6 Middle East and North Africa Centre at Sussex (MENACS), University of Sussex

MENACS brings together a diverse group of academics from across the University of Sussex to engage in research and teaching related to the Middle East and North Africa from the perspective of specific disciplines. MENACS is particularly strong in modern history, languages, literature, anthropology, international relations, politics, and development studies. The geographic reach of its research stretches from North Africa to Afghanistan and Turkey to the Indian Ocean. It seeks to place the Middle East and North Africa in global context, examining connections, interactions, and transnational networks. The Centre is involved in a range of activities related to the Middle East and North Africa, including research, providing a forum for discussion and debate, promoting evidence-based policy and informed public discourse and, building connections with scholars around the world, especially in the MENA region.

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/menacs/>

6.7 Middle East Centre (MEC), University of Oxford

The MEC is an international institute for teaching, research and scholarly exchange on the modern Middle East in the University of Oxford, training over 1000 masters and doctoral students. The MEC:

- Promotes inter-disciplinary scholarship on Turkey, Iran, Israel and the Arab states of the Middle East and North Africa from the nineteenth century to the present day
- Serves as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East, encouraging the exchange of students and researchers from across the region
- Encourages informed debate and respect for divergent views on the contentious issues confronting the Middle East
- Contributes to debates in the press and public arenas and advise government to promote greater understanding of the Middle East
- Provides supervision, teaching and research support for masters and doctoral students in modern Middle Eastern studies; students come from around the world –

from the UK and the rest of Europe, from all parts of the Middle East and Asia, and from the Americas.

<https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/middle-east-centre>

7 PACIFIC STUDIES

7.1 Centre for Pacific Studies (CPS), University of St. Andrews

CPS plays a leading role in research throughout the wider Oceania region, and has created international partnerships across Europe and with research institutions across the Pacific. CPS has also played a key impact role in developing research-policy knowledge exchanges with international and regional development and governance agencies – to ensure a basis guided by Pacific perspectives and social science evidence. The Centre's Pacific Connections series of accessible research-policy and public engagement events aims to demonstrate the contemporary realities of Pacific peoples' lives and the possibilities of academic research. CPS has emphasised ways to bring Pacific peoples' own concerns and ideas to the foreground and its research projects work in collaboration with partners throughout the Pacific region, especially in Fiji, Hawai'i, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

<https://cps.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

7.2 London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science (LAPC), SOAS University of London

LAPC combines depth of empirical coverage while advancing key theoretical (both mainstream and critical) debates in the social sciences. LAPC:

- Provides a forum for inter-disciplinary, comparative social scientific research relating to the Asia- Pacific region
- Facilitates social science research that reflects commitment to empirical research together with representation of both mainstream and critical viewpoints
- Promotes discussion, research and scholarship
- Hosts regular seminar series, workshops, conferences featuring scholars from UK and overseas
- Develops externally-funded, inter-disciplinary collaborative projects within the Centre and with institutions overseas
- Hosts visiting scholars and practitioners with cognate interests

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/apcss/>

8 RACE AND ETHNICITY STUDIES

8.1 Centre for Research in Race and Education (CRRE), University of Birmingham

CRRE aims to be a foremost academic centre dedicated to the study of racism and race inequality in education. CRRE's mission is to pursue race equality and social justice by

working to close gaps in educational achievement and improve the educational experiences and career outcomes of Black and minority ethnic people. The objectives of CRRE are to:

- Undertake rigorous critical research of the highest empirical and ethical standards
- Encourage collaborations between researchers, policy-makers, activists, and the wider community
- Initiate and contribute to informed debate about race inequalities in policy and practice internationally

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/crre/about/index.aspx>

8.2 Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship, University of Bristol

The Centre recognises the importance of ethnicity and migration to the study of contemporary societies and politics, and to prospects for social justice and social cohesion. The Centre combines research into political discourses and socio-economic structures with an interest in everyday practices, culture, and experience on the one hand, and normative theory on the other.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/ethnicity/>

8.3 Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), University of Manchester

CoDE is an ESRC funded research centre providing theoretically informed, empirically grounded and policy-relevant research on ethnic inequalities in the UK. CoDE combines quantitative and qualitative methods in an interdisciplinary framework to examine changing patterns of ethnic inequality over time and in the contemporary context. It brings together expertise from a range of disciplines including sociology, demography, economics, history, geography, political science, cultural studies. A variety of research techniques and tools ensure that the potential economic and social benefits of its research are realised. Its programme is focused on institutional change, recognising that it is at a meso, institutional, level that ethnic inequalities impact directly on the lives of ethnic minorities. But also that it's here where powerful interventions can take place. It examines key institutions from two intersecting perspectives – how internal employment practices reproduce or challenge ethnic inequalities and, how these institutions construct, influence and regulate perceptions of ethnic difference within UK culture.

<https://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/about/>

8.4 Centre for Race, Education & Decoloniality (CRED), Leeds Beckett University

The Centre focuses on the relevance for thinking about “race” and racism intersectionally and from a decolonial perspective within educational settings. It does so in different contexts regionally, nationally and internationally in order to impact leadership, access, experience and outcomes. In today’s world, “decolonial race/racism literacy” is essential to being active, informed citizens, and to living vibrant professional and personal lives.

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/carnegie-school-of-education/research/race-and-education/>

9 SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

9.1 Asia Research Institute, University of Nottingham

The Institute brings together its world leading research and expertise concerning the major sustainable development challenges in Asia through engagement with practitioners and partners in the region. Its aim is to increase dialogue with, and to make an impact on, the ongoing debates within the region, together with its China and Malaysia campuses.

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/asiaresearch/>

9.2 Asian Studies Centre, University of Oxford

The Centre predominantly covers South, Southeast and East Asia and provides a forum for supporting activities through which scholars from across the University of Oxford and beyond discuss thematic topics of comparative and regional interests. The Asian Studies Centre is host to the Taiwan Studies Programme, Programme in Modern Burmese Studies, the South Asian History Seminar Series and the Southeast Asia Seminar Series. It also supports a variety of other country-specific and/or thematic seminar series, workshops, conferences, lectures and activities, which vary from year to year.

<https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/research-centres/asian-studies-centre>

9.3 British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS)

BASAS supports advanced research in the humanities and social sciences of South Asia. BASAS was established in 1986 and is now the largest UK interdisciplinary academic association for the study of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, and the South Asian diaspora. In 2007, BASAS merged with the Society for South Asian Studies, which had been formed in 1979 when the Society for Afghan Studies (founded in 1972) expanded its remit. BASAS organises an annual conference, workshops and lectures, held at different locations each year in the UK, and welcomes participants from all academic disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

<http://basas.org.uk/about/>

9.4 Centre for South Asian Studies Scotland (CSAS), University of Edinburgh

CSAS is the central academic unit at the University of Edinburgh and Scotland dedicated to the study of South Asia. CSAS brings together reputable academic colleagues from across Anthropology, the College of Art, Engineering, Geography, History, Languages and Cultures, Law, Politics and International Relations, Religious Studies, Sociology, and the Vet School from within the University to provide a vibrant core of academics that have a keen interest and expertise on South Asia. The Centre brings together South Asian expertise across the

University to support the interdisciplinary study of the subcontinent as a whole and seeks also to relate South Asian Studies to the wider community, through links with the Scottish Parliament, NGOs and major educational and cultural organisations in South Asia and Scotland.

http://www.csas.ed.ac.uk/about_us

9.5 Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge

The Centre serves all faculties and departments in the University whose teaching and research touches on the regions of South and Southeast Asia. The Centre is primarily responsible for promoting the study of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim and Burma/Myanmar, but over the last 25 years, has extended its activities to include Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Hong Kong within its remit. Its library collection and unique archival collection of papers, films and photographs attract scholars from around the world and, in addition to its core staff, it hosts several affiliated and visiting scholars. The Centre holds a weekly research seminar programme during term and organises occasional workshops, public lectures and conferences.

<https://www.s-asian.cam.ac.uk/>

9.6 SOAS Centre of South East Asian Studies (CSEAS), SOAS University of London

CSEAS encourages and supports research by both staff and students and exists to stimulate a lively research culture concerned with South East Asian issues. Its seminars and programme of events promote interdisciplinary study, research and discussion, and disseminate a wider awareness of the region.

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/cseas/>