

Workshop: Decolonising methodologies for studying changing climates

The global climate emergency calls attention to the end of the world as we know it. Threats to livelihoods, supply chains, and the very material conditions of life are presented as a unique challenge of the Anthropocene. Yet, as indigenous and decolonial scholars remind us, the end of the world lamented by the Anthropocene is not a new phenomenon:

“Imperialism and ongoing settler colonialism have been ending worlds for as long as they have been in existence” (Yusoff, 2018, p. 11). Hegemonic forms of knowledge production on climate change and environmental controversies have tended to avoid and, in doing so, have helped to obscure the colonial legacies of the socio-ecological crises studied. To counter such ontological and epistemological erasures, recent revivals in indigenous movements have converged with emerging calls for decolonising dominant forms of knowledge production about climate change and global environmental crises.

In this workshop, we start with the premise that the process of decolonising epistemologies requires decolonising research methodologies. This raises the question of what all this means in practice:

- How can we decolonise the way we frame the research problem? What research questions should we be asking?
- Who else and what else should we consult in shaping our research design?
- How should we reconsider the sequence of the research process?
- What does decolonising data collection and analysis look like?
- How can we integrate principles of reciprocity in our research process? What does that look like in practice?
- What are other ways of valorising research in a way that matters to the people who have contributed to this knowledge?

This workshop will bring together experienced scholars who have a long history in decolonial research and early-career and emerging scholars who are interested in developing their research in this direction.

Reference:

Yusoff, K. (2018). *A billion black Anthropocenes or none*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.