

GLOBAL RESISTANCE: CONTESTING CAPITAL AND COLONIALITY



Image by Kafka
@kafkawastaken

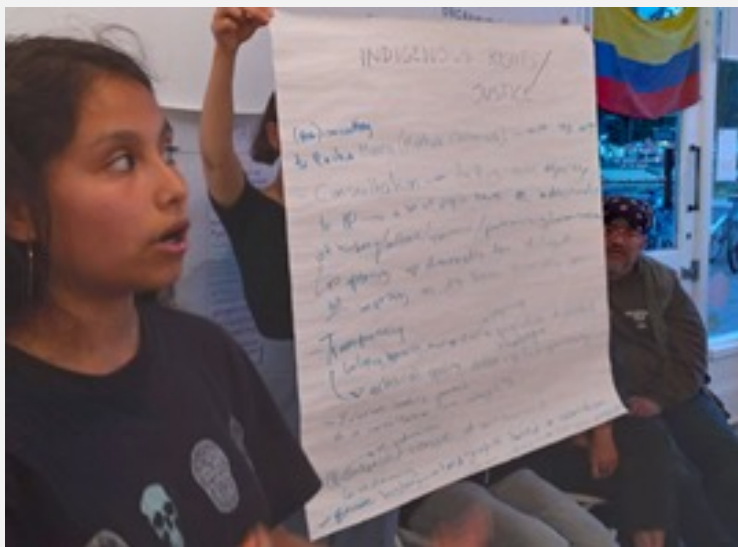


ABOUT THE MODULE

- What does it mean to resist capitalism and the violent legacies of colonialism in the present?
- In the face of climate crisis, intensified corporate plunder and authoritarian government, is another world really possible?
- What can we learn from the thought and practice of resistance movements?



Global Resistance: Contesting Capital and Coloniality examines these questions in dialogue with intersecting traditions of decolonial/postcolonial theory, (trans, queer) feminism, (Black) Marxism, anarchism & Indigenous thought. We explore the relationship between resistance, racial capitalism and law, the politics of protest, the nature of violence and its role in resistance and repression, the state as focus of political struggle, use of human rights in resisting corporate plunder and state violence, the gendered politics of resistance, the struggles for other, non-capitalist knowledges and the nature of solidarity.



WHY CHOOSE GLOBAL RESISTANCE?

- Previous students have got so much out of the module that they have organised reading groups, events and campaigns even after the module has finished!
- We think about theory in a way that is tied to lived experience of struggle against exploitation and oppression
- Opportunities to connect with previous students and get involved in campaigns (or start your own!)

Quotes from Global Resistance students:

- “Without a doubt one of the most thought provoking and exciting modules of the whole degree!”
- “This module changed my life”
- “We were lucky that, from the first ... class ‘community’ was at the forefront of learning”
- “a brilliant ... course with engaging readings and a brilliant classroom atmosphere to foster interesting discussions”



TOPICS

.....

- Understanding power and resistance
- Protests, riots and occupations
- Violence and counter-violence
- With or without the state?
- Rights in resistance: strategic use of law?
- Resisting patriarchies
- Social struggle as epistemic struggle
- What is solidarity?



SOME OF OUR CASE STUDIES

- Zapatista movement in Mexico
- Kurdish revolution in Rojava
- Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion
- Black Lives Matter and abolitionist struggle
- Workers struggles against 'trade union genocide'.
- Peasant and indigenous struggles against extractivism in Latin America
- Anti-austerity struggles in the UK and beyond
- Anti-colonial uses of human rights
- And more....

MODULE CONVENOR

.....
Dr Lara Montesinos Coleman

l.coleman@sussex.ac.uk

I'm Reader in International Relations, Law and Development and Director of the Centre for Global Political Economy. Before becoming an academic, I worked for a long time with peasant, worker, student and indigenous movements in Colombia and elsewhere in Latin America and continue to have links to many of these struggles.

Research: I'm author of *Struggles for the Human: Violent Legality and the Politics of Rights* (Duke University Press, 2024), co-author of *Righting Corporate Wrongs? Capital, Impunity and Strategic Use of Law* (War on Want 2020) and co-editor of *Situating Global Resistance: Between Discipline and Dissent* (Routledge, 2012), as well as a book in Spanish on resistance to BP's oilfields and numerous articles on extractivism, human rights, resistance, racism and critical methodologies. You can read more about my work [here](#).



Teaching: I advise colleagues on inclusive and accessible teaching and have additional expertise in teaching and learning for students with AD(H)D and Specific Learning Difficulties/Differences such as dyslexia and dyspraxia (which benefits all students). An inclusive classroom environment is at the centre of my approach and I will always check-in with you about specific needs and circumstances at the start of the course.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Weekly three-hour seminar – with interactive lecture and discussion
- Sometimes students hear directly from former students and activists (depending on availability)
- Opportunity to connect with classmates during the week
- Inclusive classroom with vibrant discussion – and no one is forced to speak if you're shy!
- Lots of focus on study skills and academic success with less stress.

Top: Global Resistance students take their learning from the module to [an event on Resisting Killer Corporations they organised at Onca Gallery](#). **Middle:** Global Resistance students from 2022 return to talk to class of 2023. **Bottom:** cross-generational Global Resistance students' after party 2023 (shared with permission!).

ASSESSMENT

- **Concept note (1,500 words):** choosing from key concepts from across the module.
- **Essay (3,500 words):** there is a set list of questions that allow you to go deeper into topics we have covered, but you can also develop your own question in discussion with the module convenor

SUPPORT PREPARING FOR ASSESSMENTS

We will also have a session based on the podcast series that I initially made for Global Resistance students: Success with Less Stress. Topics include: how to read for a first class degree, how to know when you've read enough and move to writing, structuring your work, how to deal with procrastination and digital distraction.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

.....

- **Where can I learn more about what previous students have taken from this module?** There is a blog article by former students: [Global Resistance students launch solidarity campaign with indigenous struggle against extractivism](#)
- **Is it better if I have a background in a particular discipline?** No. This module is cross-disciplinary and does not rely on knowledge from any disciplinary background. It is taken by students studying international relations, development, politics, anthropology, geography economics, sociology and many other subjects.



- **Do I need to have activist experience or be involved in activism during the module?** No. The class is normally a mixed group, with different backgrounds, needs and experiences. While there are opportunities to share activist experiences and build on these, you can do very well on this course without being involved – all that is needed is a curiosity about the topics.