

Whose Histories Matter?: Doing Decolonial Heritage and National Identities

- ▶ Convenor: Professor Divya P. Tolia-Kelly: Spring Term : d.p.tolia-kelly@sussex.ac.uk

- ▶ Module Aims: What are the politics of National and International identities and heritage?
- ▶ How do contemporary accounts of heritage erase working class, BAME, race-histories and subaltern connections.
- ▶ How can memories account for erased, occluded, and sometimes deliberately hidden narratives to aid and serve national and international geo-political cultures of nation, identities.



- ▶ Image LEFT (1) View of Parthenon, with mosque from North-West, Christian Hansen, 1836 Watercolour: Image RIGHT (2) Tens of thousands of Syrian refugees arrived in Greece in 2015, such as the ones above reaching the isle of Lesbos
- ▶ Often centred on a notion of democracy and citizenship as practiced in Athens, Greece. The image shows the Parthenon under Ottoman rule (1453-1821). Europe and understandings of 'European' intricately and co-dependent on 'others', 'Oriental' or 'Eastern' understandings.

Key Questions for the module

- ▶ Where does 'race', Empire, gender and class figure in historical narratives?
- ▶ What are the politics and geo-politics of belonging to a national identity?
- ▶ Using a postcolonial critique we ask:
- ▶ Whose heritage is excluded? Whose Histories Matter? Whose Heritage is valid?
- ▶ How do we decolonise heritage and national Identities?
- ▶ Whose Memories Count?
 - ▶ as History? As Fact? As important? As credible?
- ▶ How do we define 'nation', 'citizen' and its others?

Format of course

Weekly Set Readings for 1.5 hour workshop and 1.5 hour lecture

One-Day Field Trip to the British Museum and Natural History Museum

Assessment

- ▶ 1500 Word Essay (DUE Week 4)
- ▶ 3500 Word Essay (Due Week 11)

Some Key Readings

Bennett, T. (2005). "Civic Laboratories: Museums, cultural objecthood and the governance of the social." *Cultural Studies* 19(5): 521-547.

Nora Pierre(1989) Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Mémoire in Representations, 26, Special Issue: Memory and Counter-Memory: 7-24.

Tolia-Kelly, D.P., 2016. Feeling and being at the (postcolonial) Museum: Presencing the affective politics of 'race'and culture. *Sociology*, 50(5), pp.896-912.

Hooper-Greenhill, E. 1992. *Museums and the Shaping of Knowledge*. London: Routledge

Mitchell, K. (2003) Monuments, Memorials and the Politics of Memory. *Urban Geography*, 24, 442-59.

Wemyss, G. (2008) White Memories, White Belonging: Competing Colonial Anniversaries in 'Postcolonial' East London. *Sociological Research Online*, 13, 8.

Wong, Y. S. (2006) When there are no pagodas on Pagoda Street: language, mapping and navigating ambiguities in colonial Singapore. *Environment and Planning A*, 38, 325-340.

Yeoh, B. S. A. (1992) Street Names in Colonial Singapore. *Geographical Review*, 82, 313-322.