



GLOBAL RESISTANCE

SUBJECTS AND PRACTICES





Since the 1999 “battle of Seattle”, when protestors from across the world descended on the World Trade Organisation ministerial conference, scholars and activists alike have spoken of a “global” movement against neoliberalism, capitalism and imperialism.....





“Another world is possible!” has been a rallying cry of globally-networked struggles against socio-economic dispossession and armed repression.



image ©Lara Coleman

EXIGIMOS EL DESMONTAJE DEL ESMAD

But how and to what extent do these mobilisations represent the possibility of “another world”?



image ©Lara Coleman


These struggles have been not only been aggressively repressed, but also co-opted within processes of liberal, capitalist order-building once contested.



image ©Lara Coleman

How do we understand the complex entanglements between power and resistance, between political dissent and forms of social and political control?





This module will explore some of the main concepts and theories used to make sense of resistance – including Marxist, post-structuralist, decolonial, feminist and anarchist approaches.



we are the

Rather than assuming that resistance is straightforwardly emancipatory, the module will interrogate the politics of resistance, and the ways in which anti-systemic struggles may become entangled with relations of power.



It will also examine means of repressing or disciplining dissent, eliminating political struggles or containing contestation within manageable limits.



image ©Lara Coleman

It will explore thematic debates such as the ethics of resistance, the concept of solidarity and the racialised and gendered politics of resistance...



image ©Lara Coleman

...the politics of human rights, using (or refusing) law in resistance, and associated questions of civil disobedience, violence and rebellion



image ©Lara Coleman

We will explore these issues through specific instances of struggle....



... from the global summit protests of the early 21st century and the emergence of the influential Zapatista movement in Mexico





... to international trade unionism



... campaigns against multinational corporations



image ©Lara Coleman

POK
NUESTRO
TERRITORIO

CAMILO
CUTI

ALTERNATI
BIA
MENTAL PRESENTE!

...peasant and indigenous struggles over land and nature



...recent anti-austerity protests in Europe...



...and student mobilisations in defence of higher education



Assessed learning outcomes:

Menos Policias.
Más Educacion.



Menos Policias.

MS Educación.

By the end of the module, you should be able to:

- 1) Systematically understand key conceptual debates around the theory and practice of resistance in world politics



image ©Lara Coleman

Menos Policias.

Más Educación.

2) Situate understandings of “global resistance” in broader debates around power, world order and processes of political subjectivisation



image ©Lara Coleman

Menos Policias.

Más Educación.

3) Appreciate the variegated and ambiguous politics of resistance through an understanding of specific empirical examples



image ©Lara Coleman

Menos Policias.

Más Educación.

4) Demonstrate a coherent and detailed knowledge of the theoretical and political challenges associated with understanding resistance



image ©Lara Coleman

Menos Policias.
Más Educacion.

5) Apply research skills to the analysis of case studies of political dissent



Menos Policias.

Más Educacion.

The module will run in the Spring term. It will be taught through a weekly 3-hour seminar



Module Assessment

It will be assessed by a 3,500 word essay (70% of mark), a 1,000 word mid-module concept note (20% of mark) and a group presentation (10% of mark)



image ©Lara Coleman

The module convenor, Dr Lara Montesinos Coleman is co-editor of the book *Situating Global Resistance* and part of the steering committee of the international Resistance Studies Network.



image ©Lara Coleman

She has published widely on resistance, rights, ethics and violence. Her work draws on 15 years of engagement with peasant and worker struggles in Latin America, and an academic background in philosophy and IR.

