

‘Our’ Contemporary Conjuncture: Sense-making from a Decolonial Epistemic Perspective

Thematic Cluster (special issue) for

Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology and Society

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The 21st century provides a vantage point to witness the ravages of a global sixth mass extinction, with accelerating climate change, inequality and endemic poverty and precarity for the majority of peoples who are located in the global South and who have contributed the least to environmental pollution and ecological destruction. Besides creating the general alienation of producers from their lands and the products of their labour, the existing international division of labour and its institutional frameworks serve to reproduce and extend the combined, uneven, yet common characteristics of capitalist accumulation. The emergence of a zoonotic illness: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, and its rapid spread into a global pandemic, further illustrate our precarity as a species. Linked to these, an epistemic capture has buttressed imperialism and ‘normalised’ worldviews that remain centred upon ways of thinking essentially framed in Western Europe.

This open call for papers seeks to solicit contributions on the philosophical and praxis-orientated experiences of decolonisation and decoloniality’s from the global South with particular emphasis on Africa, the Caribbean, Central America and South America. The special issue aims to problematize the challenges of decolonialising the political relationships between the global North and South within a critical appreciation of the coloniality ingrained in these relations, their institutional architectures and systems. The following themes are among those that could be addressed.

- The limits of current beliefs about science
- The Northern cognitive empire and its coloniality of knowledge
- Epistemologies of the South
- Pandemics, disasters and threats of human extinction
- The urgency of depatriarchization of the modern world
- Ecologies of knowledges and mosaic epistemology
- The imperative of deimperialization
- The convergences of Marxism and Decolonization in the 21st century
- Decolonization of universities and states as modern institutions
- Indigenous peoples struggles and rural futures

Abstracts (maximum 500 words) for proposed papers should be submitted by 1 August 2022 to Dr Saajidha Sader < saders@ukzn.ac.za >. Full manuscripts will be due 1 March 2023. Abstracts and manuscripts must be in English.