

The Decolonizing Sexualities Network

Decolonizing practices of thinking and
doing in and out of the archive

Dr Silvia Posocco

Birkbeck, University of London

s.posocco@bbk.ac.uk

The Decolonizing Sexualities Network

- Since 2010.
- Co-run by Dr Suhraiya Jivraj (University of Kent, UK), Dr Silvia Posocco (Birkbeck, University of London, UK) and Dr Sandeep Bakshi (University of Paris Diderot, France).
- Milestone meetings in Berlin (2010), London/Canterbury (2013), London, Paris (2015 and 2019).
- AHRC-funded, supported by University of Kent, Birkbeck, Paris Diderot and POC groups and communities, and allies.
- DSN connects scholars, artists and activists working on the diverse ways in which sexuality, race and religion intersect within state law and policy as well as within civil society developments in different national settings and transnationally.
- Works in and out of digital environments.



DECOLONIZING SEXUALITIES

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES
CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

Sandeep Bakshi
Suhraiya Jivraj
Silvia Posocco

COUNTERPRESS

- DSN, a Queer People of Colour (QPC)-led network, of Trans and Queer People of Colour (TQPoC) and allies.
- Focussed on queer and trans people of colour, their experiences, analyses and varied forms of cultural production and critique.
- Animated by a decolonial ethos that combines epistemic critique and the analysis of colonial wounds, with a commitment to re-existence and decolonial futures.
- Transnational, includes diasporas in former colonial centres in Paris, London and Berlin, activist assemblages in Palestine, France and the US.



DECOLONIZING SEXUALITIES

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

Sandeep Bakshi
Suhraiya Jivraj
Silvia Posocco

COUNTERPRESS

‘Queering coloniality and the epistemic categories that classify people means to disobey and delink from coloniality of knowledge and of being. At this intersection, decolonial queerness is necessary not only to resist coloniality but, above all, to re-exist and re-emerge decolonially.’

DSN, 2016.

Digital challenges and opportunities

- The digital? Always already worlded.
- Decolonizing the digital?

‘Today, digital militarism has become commonplace, both in Israel and in political theaters across the globe. We have become accustomed to the integration of social networking into military arsenals, to calls for war issued en masse on social media platforms, to the presence of smartphones in military zones and battlefields, to social networking from scenes of atrocity’ (Kuntsman and Stein, *Digital Militarism*, 2015).



DECOLONIZING SEXUALITIES

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES
CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

Sandeep Bakshi
Suhraiya Jivraj
Silvia Posocco

CP COUNTERPRESS

- Building an archive of Queer Decolonial Studies.
- QTPOC and allies.
- New forms of publishing needed, experiment with new models.
- Anthology published with CounterPress.
- Available on pay-what-you-can basis and also as a paperback.
- Widely circulated, widely shared.



DECOLONIZING SEXUALITIES

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

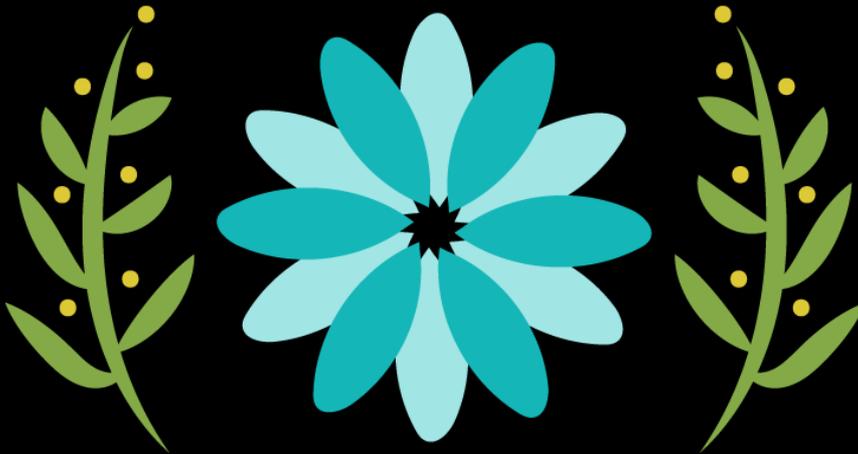
Sandeep Bakshi
Suhraiya Jivraj
Silvia Posocco

COUNTERPRESS

- DSN Volume I.
- Contributors address the ways in which categories, theories and knowledge travel across locations or fail to do so and consider the political implications of such processes for differently situated sexual subjectivities.
- Queer of color critique emerges as a set of key analytical tools to deconstruct intersectional forms of oppression against and within marginalized communities such as processes of racialization in 'color-blind' Europe and as a means to repoliticize 'queer' and build coalitions among communities of color, in particular in Europe (including Southern and Eastern Europe).

DSN Blog

- <https://decolonizingsexualities.com/>
- The DSN blog hosts entries ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 words on transnational and decolonial queer politics and activism. We invite regular contributions from folks wishing to give free rein to their thoughts on larger themes of decolonial queernesses.



DECOLONIAL CAFÉ PARIS

Le Kent Law School (KLS), Centre for Sexuality, Race & Gender Justice (SeRGJ) et le Decolonizing Sexualities Network (DSN) présentent:

le **Decolonial Café** - Peripheral Perspectives at the Centre.

C'est la première édition du decolonial café. Ces événements organisés par le DSN vont avoir lieu dans différents centres (dé)coloniaux d'Europe.

Venez participer à l'open mic ou assister, accompagner, ou tout simplement admirer. Cet espace est par et pour les lgbtiq racisé.e.s et toutes nos allié.e.s racisé.e.s.

Quand : le dimanche 19 mai 2019 à partir de 15 heures

Où : Le Ventre de l'Architecte, 4 rue Burnouf, 75019 Paris

 Colonel Fabien ou  Belleville

Évènement ouvert à toutes.

The Kent Law School (KLS), Centre for Sexuality, Race & Gender Justice (SeRGJ) and Decolonizing Sexualities Network (DSN) present:

the fabulous **Decolonial Café** - Peripheral Perspectives at the Centre.

This is the first decolonial café in a series of similar DSN events in different European (de)colonial centres.

Come for an afternoon with activists, artists and social organisers. Poems, speeches, performances, critiques, queerness. This is an lgbtiq of colour and allies of colour space.

When: Sunday 19th May 2019, 3.00 pm onwards

Where: Le Ventre de l'Architecte, 4 rue Burnouf, 75019 Paris

 Colonel Fabien or  Belleville

All welcome.

Soutenu par / With the support of:

Transnational Decolonial QTPOC

 Kent Law School @ 50

- Decolonial Café Paris – Peripheral Perspectives at the Centre, Paris, 2019.
- Led by Jivraj and Bakshi in collaboration with Transnational Decolonial QTPOC.
- In and out of digital archives, in and out of lived archives.



DECOLONIZING SEXUALITIES

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

Sandeep Bakshi
Suhraiya Jivraj
Silvia Posocco

COUNTERPRESS

- Decolonial strategies in and out of the archive/s.
- Decolonize queer studies and the queer archive.
- Lived experience and critique.
- A re-arrangement of the sensorium, of which the digital is a part.

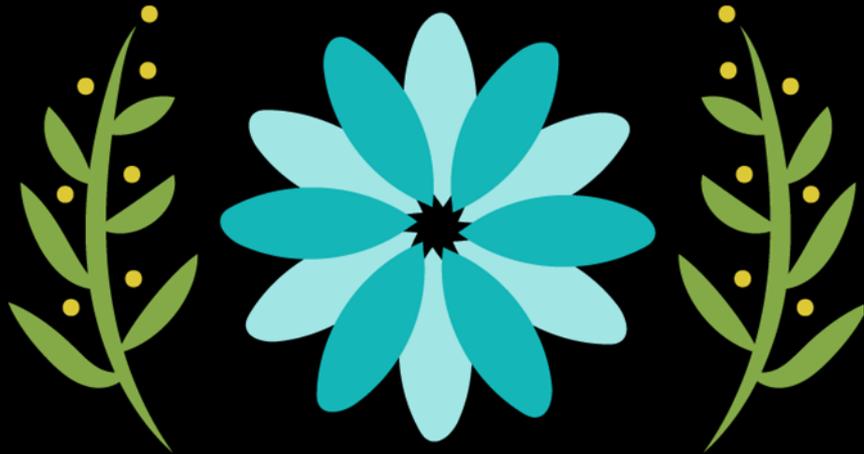


COUNTERPRESS

DECOLONIZING SEXUALITIES

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES
CRITICAL INTERVENTIONS

Sandeep Bakshi
Suhraiya Jivraj
Silvia Posocco



- ‘Re-presencing’, transformative process and force of the TQPoC archives.
- Fragmentary, uncollected, dis-identificatory (see Bacchetta, 2019, ‘Re-Présence’: Les Forces Transformatives d’Archives des Queers Racisté.e.s’).
- Cultivating relations in and out of digital spaces, supporting queer decolonial intellectual and cultural production, analysis, critique and pedagogy.