

Decolonial Subversions

A platform for Decolonisation in Praxis: Rigorous, multilingual, free-of-charge

Vision of Decolonial Subversions

Decolonial Subversions is a newly established open access, multilingual, peer-reviewed publishing platform committed to the decentring of western epistemology in the humanities and social sciences. It is the organic development of the Founding Editors' previous work at [The SOAS Journal of Postgraduate Research](#) (ISSN 2517-6226), a student-led, open access academic journal, which culminated in the issue of [Decolonisation in Praxis](#) (2017-2018).

The publishing platform is informed by our committed efforts to expose and decentre western Euro-centrism and other hegemonic epistemologies within knowledge production, and to overcome material and normative barriers that contribute to perpetuate the unequal distribution of knowledge production in the world. We particularly aim to provide a more dedicated platform for the expression of knowledge-systems that have been conventionally marginalised, mostly in the Global South - Latin America, Eastern Europe, most parts of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and parts of Oceania, without being limited to these geographies since inequalities and marginalisation are pervasive. We envision members from within and outside academia from anywhere in the world having the ability to write and to share research without being constrained by the lack of resources and the necessity of mastering English or the 'politics of citation' and peer review that govern much Anglophone scholarly production. We believe that such constraints and prerequisites have historically made it difficult for researchers beyond western European and North American systems to produce and publish research that employs conceptual repertoires that make sense to them and that focuses on issues that are not dictated by the mainstream, but reflect the authors' distinct realities and priorities.

Inclusive and Multilingual

A key motivation is to grant more visibility to scholars from the Global South and to break the current cycle of self-affirming western epistemic hegemony by actively encouraging authors to reference non-western, female and other marginalised sources in lieu of often-antiquated voices whose authority is partially rooted in their westernness. While we favour analyses from indigenous or local scholars who have bridges to the cultural and cosmological contexts they speak from, we acknowledge that local contexts do not eschew power hierarchies and that some voices are heard more than other. Hence, we do not consider anyone representative of any group or community. What we aspire to do is to promote a type of knowledge-making that is re-centred on lived experience and that is transparent about the positionality from which the researcher/author researches, speaks and writes.

As another way of decentring western epistemology and diversifying knowledge-making, we encourage contributors to submit their contributions in **local languages they feel most comfortable with**. More specifically, we encourage:

- Contributions in a local language accompanied by an English translation
- Contributions in English accompanied by a translation in a local language as relevant to the study subject matter or context
- English contributions provided they incorporate substantial content (up to 50%) in a local language (including songs, poems, linguistic analyses, etc.)

By inviting English translations (which we hope to support in the future through a dedicated team of international translation partners), we seek to facilitate a more substantive dialogue between researchers from different parts of the world, ensuring that research in local languages converses with the Anglophone mainstream with the hope of gradually decentring the current epistemology.

English-speaking authors are requested to work with local research partners in producing these translations to achieve more locally-grounded analyses, ensuring that translators are fully acknowledged for their work and are identified as co-authors. Where authors are proficient in both languages, they are invited to provide their own translations with the proper contextualisation.

Decolonial Subversions welcomes written, acoustic or visual contributions. Publishing formats include, but are not limited to:

- [Research articles](#) (6,000-8,000 words)
- [Field notes](#) (2,000-3,000 words)
- [Book reviews](#) (1,500-2,000 words)
- [Ethnographic stories](#) centred on real encounters (1,500-2,000 words)
- [Opinion pieces or journalistic commentaries](#) (2,000-3,000 words)
- [Other formats](#) reflective of local modes of knowledge production and transmission (such as poetry, visual arts, songs, etc.)

Submissions can cover *all subject areas* as long as they engage with the decolonial themes identified from time to time in each volume.

Platform composition and upcoming launch

Decolonial Subversions is comprised of an international team of collaborators and like-minded researchers, practitioners and professionals from India, Ethiopia, Senegal, Namibia, South Africa, Hong Kong, Hungary, Greece, Moldova, Italy and the UK. The founding editors, Dr Romina Istratii and Monika Hirmer, are supported in their effort by a team of designers, photographers, web-development partners, translators and reviewers, all of whom appear on the website of the platform as integral members and stakeholders of this initiative. The website will be launched in the coming month at SOAS University of London in the context of a series of activities dedicated to the decolonisation of higher education. An Eventbrite link will be set up soon for members of SOAS and the public to register for the launch. In the meantime, if you have any questions, comments or interest in being part of this initiative, please contact Romina Istratii (ri5@soas.ac.uk) and Monika Hirmer (mh121@soas.ac.uk).