

## **RESISTING COLONIZATIONS | ANGER AND HOPE**

### **The Toll of Colonization**

The toll of Colonialism on the lives of many peoples worldwide has been shown to persist over decades and centuries. Colonization dismantles societies, engenders physical and cultural genocides, and shapes destinies across generations. Colonization, by its very nature, justifies exploitation and oppression, through dehumanization, leaving communities fractured and struggling for survival, justice, and recognition.

Acknowledging these histories and addressing injustices is paramount to fostering global justice, solidarity and promoting healing. The role of academia in breaking the silence is essential as academia must leverage its resources, research, and platforms to amplify marginalized voices, challenge oppressive systems, and contribute to the restoration of justice. This symposium aims to provide a critical space where past and present colonization processes can be deconstructed allowing for a deeper understanding of the ongoing collective struggles and the paths toward dignity, liberation, and hope for a just future.

### **A Focus on Turtle Island, Palestine, and Lebanon**

Central to this symposium is the genocidal settler-colonization of Palestine and Lebanon, which echoes and re-inscribes these century-long processes on Turtle Island. We are currently witnessing a contemporary repeat pattern, marked by dispossession, occupation, and structural violence. Since the Belfour Act, the experience of Palestinians resonates deeply with other colonized nations, as they continue to defend their land and resist to achieve self-determination across the region.

This symposium will emphasize the importance of creating spaces where experiences can be voiced, acknowledged, and connected with the broader global and present forms of colonization. We seek to explore how Palestinian resistance speaks to the shared hopelessness, anger, and seeds for hope in other communities impacted by colonization, enabling a collective reflection on the interconnectedness of these realities and associated struggles.

### **Connecting Colonial Realities Globally**

The symposium invites proposals that engage with the dynamics of colonization across the globe, with a specific focus on the Indigenous peoples in Canada, Palestine, Lebanon and the SWANA (South-West Asia and North-Africa) region. Their ongoing suffering and their fight for

justice, land, and recognition mirror the colonial violence experienced by many peoples worldwide, particularly in Africa and South-America.

The symposium will bring together voices of resistance, hope, and relationship to Land from Turtle Island to the various SWANA regions. The gathering seeks to foster dialogues that explore pathways of resistance, solidarity, and healing. By integrating closed and open sessions including silenced and marginalized voices, participants will collectively draw strength from each other, explore strategies for decolonization, and cultivate hope in the face of seemingly insurmountable adversity.

### **Symposium Themes**

We invite submission of proposals for oral presentations, practical workshops, posters, or art works, that explore the following general themes:

- **Toll of Colonization:** Historical and contemporary forms of colonization and their impact and intersections on contemporary power structures and inequalities.
- **Unsettling the Self:** Critically examining one's own positionality and privilege in addressing injustice amidst widespread atrocities.
- **Unsilencing Historically Silenced Voices, Especially Youth:** By amplifying youth voices, we create space for more inclusive, transformative solutions.
- **Indigenous Resistance:** The fight of Indigenous peoples in Canada, Palestine, and globally for sovereignty, land rights, and cultural preservation.
- **Anger as Resistance:** Examining the role of anger as a legitimate response to injustice and a driving force for social transformation.
- **Cultivating Hope:** Exploring narratives of hope and resilience in the face of oppression and violence.
- **Academia as a Site of Resistance:** Reflecting on the responsibilities of academic institutions and scholars in challenging silencing, advocating for human rights, and fostering inclusive spaces for dialogue and dissent.
- **Hope, Healing and Global Solidarity:** Exploring the role of hope and healing for an international movement of support between colonized peoples for a just future.
- **The Unsettling Road Toward Peace:** Peace as a messy process, involving griefs and improbable encounters.

- **Grief and Intergenerational Violence:** Examining how witnessing genocide on screens and through our families' stories produces pain and immobility.
- **Politics of Respectability:** How do state actors (in)validate struggles? Who has skin in the game of liberation and how?

#### **Format and Structure:**

- To ensure safety and inclusivity, the symposium will feature a blend of closed and open sessions. Closed sessions will be conducted in small groups and provide a safe environment for participants to share their experiences and perspectives freely. These sessions will prioritize emotional truth-telling, grief, solidarity and collective wisdom, creating a space where every voice is heard and respected.
- Open sessions will include panels, presentations, workshops, and keynote addresses.
- An open art as resistance space will include exposed artwork, art workshops and poetic addresses.

#### **Shared Values:**

The symposium will be anchored on shared values of respect for diversity, humanity, dignity, and the right to self-determination. It will work towards providing a safe and inclusive space for participants to engage in meaningful dialogue and collective action. We aim to foster solidarity and create a transformative experience.

#### **Submission Guidelines**

Proposals should include:

- Title of the submission
- A 300-word abstract outlining the relevance of the proposal to the symposium theme
- A brief biography of the presenter(s) (max 150 words), including affiliations
- Preferred format of presentation (oral presentation, poster, workshop, art work/workshop, open or close, etc.)

**Deadline for Submissions:** March 14, 2025

**Symposium Date:** April 24-26, 2025

**Location:** Tiohtià:ke (Montreal, Canada)

**Please fill out the proposal form at the following link:**

<https://www.resistingcolonizations.com/>

Contact Information: [info@resistingcolonizations.com](mailto:info@resistingcolonizations.com)