

# 'Decolonising International Relations'

## MASTERCLASS

with Dr Meera Sabaratnam and  
Dr Mark Laffey



"What is 'colonial' about International Relations, and what does it mean to 'decolonise' our research and teaching in this field? There are now multiple dimensions to the 'postcolonial critique' of IR, which has become increasingly prominent as an orientation to research. This critique encompasses the basic assumptions of the field, its historical sensibilities, the way it defines its objects and research questions, the methods that it uses, the ethics of its data collection and the wider political orientations of the research it produces. It also contemplates the university as a colonial institution and the classroom as a space of prospective transformation.

This masterclass focuses on the power of postcolonial thought in redefining the ways in which we 'do' International Relations. It will introduce different analytical concepts and strategies of critique from this tradition, and discuss how these can be applied in the study of different phenomena, such as war and intervention. It will examine some of the difficult questions this poses for 'data collection' as traditionally understood, and discuss ways of handling these. It will also open up questions of how different forms of political engagement might animate new research questions from a postcolonial perspective."

- Meera Sabaratnam (PhD, LSE) is Lecturer in International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS University of London. Her research interests are in the colonial and post-colonial dimensions of world politics, within IR theory, history and contemporary policy and practice.
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WHEN: Wednesday 23rd August, 2017

TIME: 1pm - 4pm

WHERE: UQ Campus GPN39A Room 402

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