



Call for Applications: “How to think concepts from the global south?”

Workshop

Organised by Dr. Mahmoud Al Zayed (Institute of Islamic studies & Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies) & Dr. Johannes Stephan (Seminar für Semitistik und Arabistik)

Time: September 22, 2022, 16:00

Location: Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures

Format: in Person

Description:

In his recent work, the intellectual historian Dilip Menon has been engaging with oceanic histories (beyond the terrestrial and the national) and knowledges from the global south contra the tendency of orienting this enterprise to Euroamerican theories. Menon understands “global South” as “an ongoing project, a conceptual and experimental category” through which one attends to the multilingual and diverse traditions of knowledge and intellections as repertoires of concepts and social imaginations. His focus on non-European concepts is an attempt to challenge the hegemony of Euroamerican academy, in its theory and practice, and to diversify our conceptual repertoire to build new theories of history, society, and culture. But what precisely does it mean to think with concepts from the Global South (instead of relying on modern Euroamerican concepts)? How does this decolonial attitude translate into a consistent research practice? And how is it possible to rethink academic work in this fashion and theorise from the global South without reaffirming existing epistemic hierarchies?

These are among the main questions that will be addressed in the workshop hosted by Prof. Dilip Menon who will be our guest speaker to take us on a journey to explore the possibilities of addressing the above questions in theory and practice. Prof. Menon will share notes on his current projects of thinking through (indigenous) words/concepts that map the landscapes of experience, ethics, religion, politics, and traditions of thinking about the world, the social and the human.

This workshop seeks to cultivate a deeper understanding of doing theory in the social sciences with a focus on the emerging field of a global history of concepts and will further address the implications and consequences of conducting research informed by decolonial praxis. Participants are welcome to share their research problems and to present their way of working on specific concepts from the Global South.

Invited Speaker:

Prof. Dilip M. Menon, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, SA

Dilip M Menon is a cultural historian and works on literature, film and social theory. He is currently a Professor of History at the Department of International Relations at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and Director of the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa. He has worked on issues of socialism, caste and social inequality in India but over the past decade his concern has been with oceanic histories and knowledge from the global south. This has resulted in two edited volumes *Ocean as Method* (Routledge, 2022) and *Changing Theory: Concepts from the Global South* (Routledge, 2022). He is the 2021 recipient of the Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year in the category of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Required readings:

Menon, D. M. 2022. Changing Theory: Thinking Concepts from the Global South. In *Changing Theory* (pp. 1-30). Routledge.

How to apply:

This workshop is open to PhD students and early career scholars from BGSMCS, ZMO, and IAAW. There will be limited slots (of 15 participants) to enable an in-depth discussion among the participants and the mentor. Please send a Maximum 300-word letter of interest to m.alzayed@fu-berlin.de & Johannes.Stephan@fu-berlin.de by August 31, 2022. We will inform you regarding your application on September 05, 2022.