



The Institute of Commonwealth Studies launches a new seminar series on Legacies of Colonialism in the Modern World.

Interest in colonial legacy issues has never been greater, not just in the academic world but as the basis for political activism and as an issue in international diplomacy. Animating these are concerns that the developing world continues to be adversely affected by these legacies, that its diaspora communities are marginalised and discriminated against, and that a process of 'decolonization' is overdue at a cultural and intellectual level in the former colonizing states. The 'Windrush Scandal' involving the detention and in some cases deportation of people from Caribbean countries and other areas of the Commonwealth who had settled in the UK entirely legally in the early post-war decades, focused fresh attention on these issues. The ways in which the legacies of Empire continue to shape the modern world is a key concern of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, and they form an important link between the varied research interests of its staff, students and fellows. And across the School of Advanced Study more generally, important new work in this area is also being conducted and supported. This new seminar series seeks to explore the broad spectrum of colonial legacy issues, highlighting the work of leading specialists from a wide variety of discipline areas.

The series will run throughout 2020, and we already have some leading writers on the subject scheduled to speak in the early part of the year. The series will begin on Thursday 13 February with a presentation by Professor Robert Gildea from Worcester College, Oxford. A leading historian of modern France and the author of the recently-published *Empires of the Mind: The Colonial Past and the Politics of the Present* (2019), Professor Gildea will be comparing legacies of Empire in Britain and France.

Some commentators have linked Britain's decision to leave the European Union following the 2016 Referendum to the country's supposed difficulty in reconciling itself to the loss of Empire. This theme is explored in *Rule Britannia: Brexit and the end of Empire* (2019) by Sally Tomlinson and Danny Dorling, and we are delighted that Professor Tomlinson will also be speaking in the series, on 'Brexit, education and Empire'.

SAS is also supporting early-career scholars who are conducting ground-breaking research in this area, and we hope to be able use the series to highlight some of this work. We are therefore delighted to be able to include Dr Sarah Gandee, a Past and Present Fellow at the Institute of Historical Research who is currently working on a book project entitled 'Criminals, Refugees, Citizens: The "Criminal Tribes" and the Decolonising State in India, c. 1920s-1960s', and on new research examining the development of anti-begging and anti-vagrancy measures and laws in the capital city of Delhi. Dr Gandee will be delivering a presentation on 'The Postcolonial Legacies of the Criminal Tribes Act in India'. The session will be chaired by Dr Tripurdaman Singh, who has recently joined the ICwS as a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow to work on the Indian Princely States and decolonization.

In April, we will be welcoming Amelia Gentleman, the *Guardian* journalist whose articles helped to break the Windrush Scandal. Her important work in telling the stories of the victims of the government's 'hostile environment' policy has been recognized through a series of accolades including the Cudlipp and Paul Foot awards, and the Amnesty impact award. She has also been named Journalist of the Year both in the British Journalism Awards and by the Political Studies Association. She will be in conversation with Dr Juanita Cox, who joined the ICwS in November as research officer on its pilot project exploring the relationship of the Windrush generation and the British state.



Thurs 13 February **'Legacies of colonialism or the persistence of empire? The French and British cases', Professor Robert Gildea** (University of Oxford) author of *Empires of the Mind: The Colonial Past and the Politics of the Present* (2019).

Venue: Chancellor's Hall, Senate House – 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Thurs 20 February **'Brexit, education and Empire', Professor Sally Tomlinson** (Goldsmiths College) author of *Education and Race from Empire to Brexit* (2019) and (with Danny Dorling) *Rule Britannia: Brexit and the end of Empire* (2019).

Venue: Room G22/26 Senate House – 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Thurs 12 March **'The Postcolonial Legacies of the Criminal Tribes Act in India', Dr Sarah Gandee (IHR).**

Chaired by **Dr Tripurdaman Singh (ICwS)**

Venue: Room G22/26 Senate House – 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Thurs 23 April **'The Windrush Generation and the hostile environment', Amelia Gentleman, *Guardian* journalist and author of *The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the Hostile Environment* (2019) in conversation with Dr Juanita Cox** (Institute of Commonwealth Studies and co-founder of Guyana SPEAKS).

Venue: Room G22/26 Senate House – 5:30 to 7:30 pm