

**Anticolonial Solidarity:
Political Theory and Global History in Dialogue**

A workshop at SCRIPTS/FU Berlin,
15-16 July 2021

The workshop “[Anticolonial Solidarity: Political Theory and Global History in Dialogue](#)” commences an interdisciplinary dialogue on the central question—*what is anticolonial solidarity?* It is important to pose this question now, when appeals to “solidarity” proliferate among politicians and public health officials seeking to legitimate otherwise unpopular mobility restrictions. Their picture of solidarity in elite frameworks of nationalist-communitarianism or liberal-internationalism, however, contrasts sharply with ways of seeing solidarity typical of transnational anticolonial movements. Engaged citizens and activists continue to contest local injustices rooted in global structures of European colonialism and the legacies of informal imperialism: from the so-called Mediterranean “refugee crisis” to state-corporate invasion of indigenous territory at Standing Rock or Unist’o’ten. From this perspective, the rhetorical performance of a “crisis of solidarity” occludes the vibrant history and present of more radical, transformative practices of anticolonial solidarity. We thus propose to approach our question by thinking about both solidarity and anticolonialism together, as well as reflecting on the importance of histories of freedom, oppression, and resistance in the formation of contemporary solidarities.

The workshop is bringing together a number of researchers in political theory and global history working on the theory and practice of one or both of ‘solidarity’ and ‘anticolonialism’. In doing so, we hope to address at least two important limits of current approaches to solidarity. First, theoretical accounts of solidarity are *insufficiently historical*, in part because the historical literature on which they rely is incomplete. Second, both the theoretical and historical literatures on solidarity are *insufficiently global*. Political theorists consistently ground their accounts in quasi-historical genealogies of solidarity. But these ideal-typical narratives systematically fail to address anticolonial movements, non-European/Western sources, or the perspective of colonial subjects. Among historians, the classic studies of 19th-century solidarity have recently been updated, and the intellectual history of solidarity in Germany has been extended to include the conceptual transfer from *solidarité* to *Solidarität*. But even the fullest history of solidarity is restricted to Europe. The interdisciplinary dialogue commenced in this workshop places historical recovery and theoretical analysis in a relationship of reciprocal elucidation. Thereby, it breaks new ground to capture ‘anticolonial solidarity’ as a discrete object of analysis in the global history of political thought.

Registration via email to acsolidarity@gmail.com

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Day 1 Th. 15th July

c. 4pm-7pm (Berlin)

4pm Introduction Jared Holley (FU)

4:15-5:40 Nationalism & Popular Sovereignty

Chair
Andreas Eckert (HU)

Michael Goebel, International History, (Graduate Institute of Geneva)

“Anticolonialism and Nationalism in the French Empire”

Inés Valdez, Political Theory (Ohio State / LMU Munich)

“Breaking the Silence: Martin Luther King, Frantz Fanon, and Anti-Imperial Popular Sovereignty”

Regina Kreide Political Theory and History of Ideas (Gießen)

Comment

5:45-7:00 Pan-Politics and Internationalism I

Sebastian Conrad (FU)

Nicole CuUnjieng Aboitiz, World History (Clare Hall, Cambridge)

“Pan-Asian Solidarity and the Philippine Revolution”

Gary Wilder, Anthropology and History (CUNY Graduate Centre)

“From a Common Front of the South to a New Internationalism of Peoples: Recalling Samir Amin”

Day 2 Fr. 16th July

c. 4pm-8pm (Berlin)

4:00-5:15 Pan Politics and Internationalism II

Veronika Zablotsky (FU)

Cemil Aydin, Global History (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill)

“Pan-political solidarities, 1870s-1940s: possibilities, practices and shortcomings”

Cindy Ewing, Global History (University of Toronto)

“Locating Worlds in Postcolonial Internationalism”

5:20-6:35 Race and Indigeneity

Waseem Yaqoob (Queen Mary London)

Jeanette Ehrmann, Political Theory (University of Gießen)

“From the Red Atlantic to the Black Pacific: Blackness, Indigenization and Anticolonial Solidarity in the Haitian Revolution”

Stacie Swain, Political Theory (University of Victoria)

“Engagements with Indigenous Resurgence as Anticolonial Solidarity”

6:45-8:00 Migrant Solidarities

Felix Anderl (PRI Frankfurt)

Martina Tazzioli, Politics and Technology, (Goldsmiths)

“Towards a genealogy of migrants’ struggles: the Alpine migrant passage and the temporality of solidarity”

Robin Celikates Social Philosophy (FU Berlin; [Transforming Solidarities](#))

“Migrant Solidarity”

Concluding Reflections