

"Transnational Feminist Dialogues in Times of the Neoliberal University"

24.06.2021: Questioning racist structures in Academia: perspectives from the Gender Studies

Exhibitors:

[Heidi Safia Mirza](#) (Goldsmith)

Title: Decolonizing Pedagogies: Black feminist reflections on gender, race, faith and seeking solidarity in the academy

Abstract: In this talk I draw on black and postcolonial feminist perspectives to explore ways in which professional black and female academics in higher education engage in 'embodied' work towards decolonizing dominant regimes of 'diversity' in higher education. In the context of the significant numbers of Muslim, Black and Asian students who are now entering higher education across Europe, I unpack the ways in which 'just being there' creates unsettling spaces of gendered racialized contestation in our still overwhelmingly white and male universities. Drawing on my research on the pedagogic practices of teacher educators and their dilemmas of teaching race, faith and culture, I explore the difficult concepts of 'white hurt' and 'spaces of safety' which offers feminists the hope of solidarity and the radical possibility of transcending the 'stuck' institutional discourses of 'diversity and inclusion' that dominate higher education.

Bio: Heidi Safia Mirza is Emeritus Professor of Equality Studies in Education at UCL Institute of Education and Visiting Professor of Race, Faith and Culture at Goldsmith's College, University of London and the LSE. She is known for her pioneering research on race, gender and identity in education and has an international reputation for championing equality and human rights for Black, Muslim, Asian women and young people through educational reform. A daughter of the Windrush generation from Trinidad and schooled in Brixton, Heidi is one of the first and few female professors of colour in UK. She is author of several best-selling books including *Young Female and Black*, which was voted in the BERA top 40 most influential educational studies in Britain. Professor Mirza is a leading voice in the global debate on decolonisation and recently co-edited the flagship book, *'Dismantling Race in Higher Education: Racism, whiteness and decolonising the academy'*. She is currently co-authoring 'Race and Ethnicity' for the IFS Deaton Inequality Review which includes the impact of COVID-19 on Black and minority ethnic communities.

[Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez](#) (Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen)

Title: Silences that Matter – On Affect and Dispossession within the context of coloniality, migration and racism in the Neoliberal University

Abstract: Departing from silence as an affective experience, impacting on subjects marked by race and migration in the neoliberal university, this presentation discusses mechanisms of dispossession, institutional ignorance and practices of silence. It does so by working on three levels: (a) the university as workplace; (b) interpersonal relationships; and (c) the institutional

culture at work. This paper will interrogate the societal mechanisms and social interactions which aim to produce the dispossession and subordination of racialized and migrantized gendered subjects in the neoliberal university.

Bio: Professor Dr. Encarnación Gutierrez-Rodriguez holds the Chair in General Sociology in the Institute of Sociology at Justus-Liebig-University. She studied Sociology, Political Sciences and Romance Studies at the University of Frankfurt, the Université Lumière II (Lyon, France) and the University of Ecuador, Quito. Currently she is also an Adjunct Faculty Professor in the Departments of Sociology and Modern Languages and Cultural Studies (MLCS) at the University of Alberta, Canada, and a Visiting Professor in the Chair for Critical Studies in Higher Education Transformation at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth (South Africa). She was Mecila: Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America Senior Fellow in 2020/21. Her more recent publications are *Decolonial Perspectives on Entangled Inequalities. Europe and The Caribbean* (2021: Anthem Press; co-edited with Rhoda Reddock); the Mecila Working Paper no. 35; “Entangled Migrations: The Coloniality of Migration and Creolizing Conviviality” and “*Sorge und Sichtbarkeit in Covid Zeiten*” (Care and Visibility in Covid Times - Conversation with Gabriele Dietze, Vanessa E. Thompson, et al.), *Zeitschrift für Medienwissenschaft*.