

## "Transnational Feminist Dialogues in Times of the Neoliberal University"

**22.07.2021: Decolonizing Feminist Teaching in Neoliberal Times**

Exhibitors:

[Radhika Govinda](#) (University of Edinburgh)

**Title: Decolonising Feminist Teaching and Intersectionality as Critical Pedagogy: A Reflexive Account of the Stories We Tell/Hear in Our Classrooms**

**Abstract:** In this talk, I critically examine how white privilege and northern hegemony in knowledge production play out in contemporary feminist classrooms, what are the pedagogical challenges of engaging with questions of difference in these classrooms, what intersectionality as critical pedagogy has to offer specifically when it comes to decolonising these classrooms, how global neoliberal logics affect this process of decolonising, and what politics of emotions the teacher and the students must navigate in this process. Or, you could say that this talk is a reflexive account of the stories I have heard and the stories I tell, and how I tell them in feminist classrooms as an anti-caste, anti-racist, upper-caste, middle class, woman of colour feminist academic from the global south, now teaching about gender in the global south to predominantly white women students, and asserting the need to decolonise feminist knowledge production at an elite institution of higher education in the global north. I envisage these stories as a way of engaging in a dialogue with fellow teachers and students on why challenging dominance of hegemonic feminisms and decentring western feminist knowledge are urgent today.

**Bio:** Radhika Govinda is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh. She has an MA from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), France and a PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK. Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh, she held a Lectureship in Gender Studies at Ambedkar University Delhi, India. Her research and teaching practice focus on the gender politics of development, intersectionality and feminist knowledge production. She was the UK Lead on the recently concluded UGC-UKIERI funded project, 'Teaching Feminisms, Transforming Lives: Questions of Identity, Pedagogy and Violence in India and the UK', which culminated in the edited collection, *Doing Feminisms in the Academy in India and the UK* (Zubaan 2020). She is currently working on a monograph titled *Intersectionality, Feminist Politics and Knowledge Production*.

[Sara de Jong](#) (University of York) and [Rosalba Icaza Garza](#) (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

**Bio:** Rosalba Icaza Garza is a decolonial feminist and Associate Professor in Global Politics, Gender and Diversity at the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Sara is a feminist activist for migrants' rights and is Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of York. Together with Olivia Rutazibwa they have co-edited the book *Decolonisation and Feminisms in Global Teaching and Learning* (Routledge 2018), which brings decolonial and feminist activism and scholarship around critical pedagogy, in conversation with each other.

**Abstract:** Rosalba and I will have a dialogue with each other around the following questions: Is it possible to create radical and alternative spaces within neoliberal academia? What particular possibilities does the pedagogical space which may be precluded in other academic practices? What are the risks and the opportunities associated with the popularisation or co-optation of calls to 'decolonise'?