
AFTER SETTLER COLONIALISM

With Mridula Sharma

PhD student, English and American Studies

University of Manchester

Entangled Colonialities Collective /Cultural Transformations Seminar

Tuesday 29th April

13.30 – 15.00

Nobelparken, Building 1481-366

In 1979, Edward Said wrote, “The fact of the matter is that today Palestine does not exist, except as a memory, or, more importantly, as an idea, a political and human experience, and an act of sustained popular will.” Said’s complex vision of Palestine as a place and an idea suggests that the struggle for Palestine, though tied to its people, is larger than Palestine itself as the sense of justice that animates it is founded on community as opposed to racial or religious exclusivity. Because the struggle for freedom in both Palestine and Kashmir is born of the most brutal occupation in the present day, this struggle is a struggle for the articulation of a new sense of what it means to have a future and what it means to be free. “After Settler Colonialism” will consider the discourse of futurity and freedom by bringing together environmental philosophy and postcolonial

criticism. If, as Lee Edelman argues, political structures aim to protect and defend the child in order to protect and defend the future, what must we make of settler colonial states’ obsession with systematic attacks against children and youth in occupied Palestine and Kashmir? In other words, if children signify a future and the settler colonial state intends to leave no child behind, what limits are being placed upon the future that can be imagined and realised? Drawing on texts from Palestine and Kashmir, the talk will address the question of a future after the formal end of settler colonialism in the present context of climate crises.

Mridula’s current project examines post-1950 literary-cultural productions from Palestine and Kashmir to bridge the gap between existing discourses in human rights and emerging dialogues in environmental humanities. Her research interests include critical theory, modernism, and postcolonial writing.

All are welcome

Kindly bring your own coffee

