



## **Beyond Alternatives Decentering Knowledge in Asia**

Noorman Abdullah, Kelvin Low, Thomas Stodulka, and Ferdiansyah Thajib

In-Person Workshop ZiF Bielefeld / 25-26 September 2023



This workshop addresses current debates on the tensions between critical and decolonial pedagogies as allied yet diversely positioned attempts of producing ‘alternative’ knowledge. It also attempts to engage with these appraisals critically in relation to the broader concerns revolving around knowledge production and circulation, and its concomitant discourses, practices and cultures. The proliferation of such initiatives and interventions in learning within the region has a target of personal and large-scale transformation within different key domains of life: from issues of economic, environmental, and social justice, from structural inequality

to local empowerment, pedagogic resistance, or religious reformation movements. What does 'alternative' mean, to whom, and in what temporal and situational context? What are the limits and dilemmas of alternative discourses that can be problematised? How can we extend knowledge production, circulation, and learning in the name of 'good' social science? More recently, scholars have engaged in making sense of and theorising processes of 'silencing' (Alatas, 2018) as a method and how they have been institutionalised in academic settings through publications, research, and teaching.

## **Day 1 DECOLONISING KNOWLEDGE AND GRASSROOTS PRACTICES**

**09.30 – 09.45 Introduction and Welcome**

**09.45 – 10.45 Day 1 Keynote**

### ***The Practice of Decolonising***

Syed Farid Alatas, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, and Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore, [alatas@nus.edu.sg](mailto:alatas@nus.edu.sg)

**10.45 – 11.15 Coffee Break**

**11.15 – 13.00 Grassroots Movements and Pedagogies of Hope**

### ***Recycling Public Institutions: Social Practice and Alternative Knowledge Production of the Grassroots***

Nuraini Juliastuti, Kunci Study Forum & Collective / HKU University of the Arts, [njuliastuti@gmail.com](mailto:njuliastuti@gmail.com)

### ***Re-enchanting the World through Place-based Pedagogies***

Aarti Kawlra, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden the Netherlands, [a.kawlra@iias.nl](mailto:a.kawlra@iias.nl); [aartikawlra1@gmail.com](mailto:aartikawlra1@gmail.com)

### ***Implementing Permaculture Gardens as a Living Laboratory in Timor-Leste's Primary Schools***

Eugenio Lemos, Permatil Timor-Leste, [ego.lemos72@gmail.com](mailto:ego.lemos72@gmail.com), and Thomas Stodulka, Freie Universität Berlin, [thomas.stodulka@fu-berlin.de](mailto:thomas.stodulka@fu-berlin.de)

**13.00 – 14.30 Lunch**

**14.30 – 16.00 Thematic World Cafés on Teaching and Learning**

moderated by Thomas Stodulka, [thomas.stodulka@fu-berlin.de](mailto:thomas.stodulka@fu-berlin.de)

**16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break**

**16.30 – 17.00 Closing Day 1**

## Day 2 DECOLONISING KNOWLEDGE AND ACADEMIC PRACTICES

### 10.00 – 11.00 Day 2 Keynote

#### ***Decolonising Pedagogy: Epistemic Expansions as Ethical Practices***

Vineeta Sinha, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, National University of Singapore, [socvs@nus.edu.sg](mailto:socvs@nus.edu.sg)

### 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

### 11.30 – 12.45 Rethinking Knowledge Production and Circulation

#### ***On the Decolonising Process in Teaching and Pedagogy: Pitfalls and Problematics***

Noorman Abdullah, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore, [socnooa@nus.edu.sg](mailto:socnooa@nus.edu.sg)

#### ***Widening the Ambit of Sensory Scholarship: Theorising from Asia***

Kelvin E.Y. Low, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, National University of Singapore, [kelvinlow@nus.edu.sg](mailto:kelvinlow@nus.edu.sg)

### 12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

### 14.00 – 15.15 Rethinking Methods and Sources

#### ***The Fugitive as Method: Devising an Escape from Imperialist Logics on Kinmen***

Junbin Tan, Department of Anthropology, Princeton University, [junbint@princeton.edu](mailto:junbint@princeton.edu)

#### ***Colonial Photographs: (Un)Covering Gender and Family in the Malay and Indonesian World***

Suriani Suratman, Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore, [mlsss@nus.edu.sg](mailto:mlsss@nus.edu.sg)

### 15.15 – 15.45 Coffee Break

### 15.45 – 16.15 Publication Discussion and Closing Remarks

19.30            **Dinner at Glückundseligkeit** (Artur-Ladebeck-Str. 57, 33617 Bielefeld)

## Travel Directions to Workshop Venue

### Address

Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung (ZiF) (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research)  
Universität Bielefeld (Bielefeld University)

Methoden 1  
33615 Bielefeld  
Germany

### By Tram/Subway

- Take the subway/tram from Bielefeld Hbf (Hauptbahnhof), Line 4 (destination Universität or Lohmannshof, approx. 7 minutes).
- Alight at Universität or Bültmannshof
- You can reach ZiF by walking up the hill behind the main building of the university

### By Taxi

- Taxis are available directly in front of the main station (Bielefeld Hauptbahnhof) (approx. 10 minutes).
- The fare to the university is about 16 euros.

