



DECOLONIZING HIGHER EDUCATION

OCTOBER 28TH

INTRODUCTIONS

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THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY

“Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity....When we reject the single story, when we realize that there is never a single story about any place, we regain a kind of paradise.”

– Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Understand how to start diversifying materials and content within your discipline to address decolonization as it relates to power, and social and racial justice.

Develop at least one concrete strategy to begin decolonizing higher education in your area.

Consider how to involve students in the creation of knowledge, content, and curriculum in the process of decolonizing higher ed.

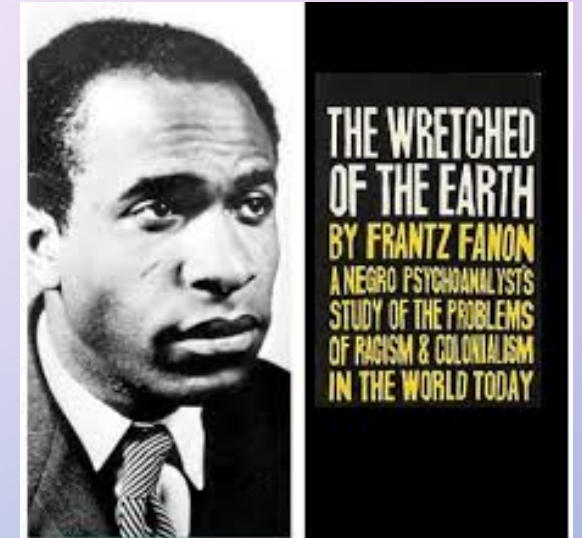
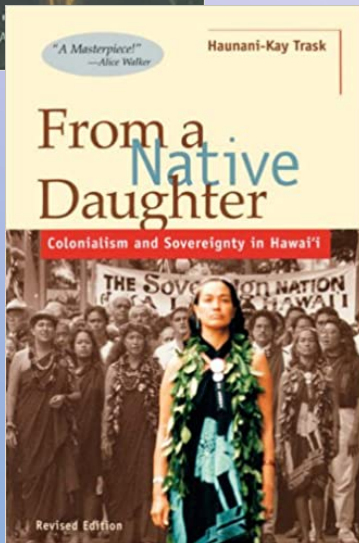
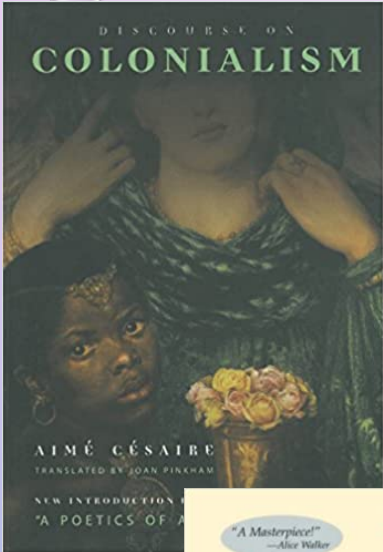
WHAT IS COLONIALISM?

- IMPERIALISM
- UNEQUAL POWER
- EXPLOITATION OF LAND AND RESOURCES
- SETTLER COLONIALISM
- METROPOLE/EXPLOITATION COLONIALISM
- RACE AND RACISM, “CIVILIZING MISSION”



DECOLONIAL TRADITION

- Fighting against imperialism and colonialism, and their lasting impact
 - eg Frantz Fanon, Aimé Césaire, Haunani-Kay Trask
 - Analysis of how racism works (W.E.B. DuBois) and its psychological impact, as a relation of power.
- Decolonial Thought: Epistemological, critical theory unpacking the colonial legacies of modern Western imperialism and globalization.



For more readings: <https://decolonization.wordpress.com/decolonization-readings/>



DECOLONIAL MOVEMENTS IN UNIVERSITIES

- MALAYSIAN CONFERENCE
- EXAMPLES OF STUDENT ACTIVISM
 - “RHODES MUST FALL” UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (SOUTH AFRICA) MARCH 2015
 - “WHY IS MY CURRICULUM WHITE?” UK
 - CALLS FOR TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING & TRANSFORMATION

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the **ancestral lands** of the **Piscataway Indian Nation**.

- For more information on the Piscataway:
<http://www.piscatawayconoytribe.com/history.html>
- Interactive map: <https://native-land.ca/>

Text your zip code to (907) 312-5085 to find out which ancestral land you reside or work on.

DECOLONIZING IS NOT...

- Decolonization is not a metaphor (Tuck & Yang, 2012).
- Decolonization is not the same thing as diversity (Samudzi, 2016).
- Decolonization does not mean just one thing.
- Decolonization is not just about dismantling, but also creating (King, 2015).
- Decolonization is not the responsibility of indigenous peoples, it is everyone's responsibility.

(Stein, 2016)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DECOLONIZE?

Diversify your
syllabus and
curriculum

Digress from the
cannon

Decentre
knowledge and
knowledge
production

Devalue
hierarchies

Disinvest from
citational power
structures

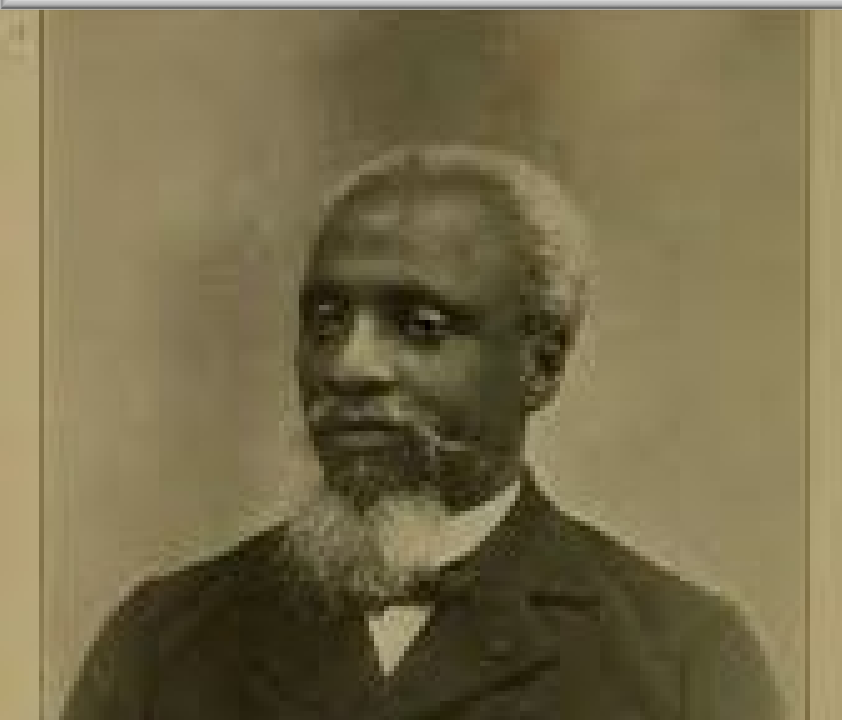
Diminish some
voices and opinions
in meetings, while
magnifying others

(Nayantara Sheoran Appleton, 2019)



WHAT WE'RE DOING TO GET STARTED

- Amy in Anthropology
 - Antenor Firmin
 - Kate Dunham
 - Makereti (Papakura): from the Arawa Tribe
- Katya in Sociology
 - Ibn Khaldun
 - Diverse examples and representation



FEATURED SPEAKERS



Photo by Anushka Khandwala

- Dr. Maria Sprehn (MC, Anthropology, Germantown)
- Mary McMahon (AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Researcher in History at Royal Holloway, University of London, British Museum)
- Dr. Vedham Karpakakunjaram (MC, Biology, Rockville)
- Randy Hertzler (MC, Rockville, Business & Social Sciences Librarian)

Breakout Rooms

- Take 15-20 minutes to reflect on the following questions and determine concrete action steps.
- Share your ideas in the live google document that we will use to discuss after our breakout sessions.

Questions:

- What concrete steps can you take to decolonize education in your area at Montgomery College?
- What are strategies that we can use in the classroom and in administration?
- How do we include students into this discussion?
- What do you need to make this happen?