

First circular

International conference

**“Coloniality, raciality, punishment and reparation in the Americas,
19th-21st centuries”**

Call for proposals for Working groups (WGs) and Mini-courses

Dates: November 27-30, 2024

**Venue: Institute of Advanced Studies of the University of São Paulo (IEA-USP),
Brazil.**

Argument

The purpose of the Conference is to expand debates and reflections on the intersection between coloniality, race, punishment and reparation with a transnational and interdisciplinary approach, which demands considering the connections between past and present and the similarities and differences between distinct national experiences in the Americas. We are interested in understanding the making of systems of punishment in the Americas, based on one shared experience of colonization and racialization of national populations. What justifies the geographic scope is the historical experience of the Americas and the legacy of European colonialism, slavery, the brutality against indigenous populations, and the fact that this continent became a "metropolitan purgatory", in the words of historian Laura de Mello e Souza. In this sense, the experience of plantation slavery, for example in Brazil and the USA, but also in other regions of the Americas, such as the Antilles or the Guiana plateau, influenced not only the making of racial hierarchies, but also the heart of the legal-penal system in these countries.

The American continent also reveals how the liberal and democratic order did not end with the imperial and slave order, but assured its a legal and social continuity. This experience partly explains the conflictual and violent nature of the political conquests of minority populations in this region, as well as the violence of reactionary phenomena. Thus, the most advanced progressive initiatives coexist with police and paramilitary brutality, the expansion of fascist speeches, mass incarceration, and the construction of mega prisons across the continent, especially in Brazil and the USA.

Therefore, it is worth asking: does this punitive tradition of the Americas become more evident when we compare the formation of punitive systems of different countries, especially those where slavery was an important institution? How essential are "devices of raciality" in the making of punitive systems in the Americas? What strategies of insurgency have been established by social movements, prisoners', civil society organizations, and other institutions that resist the destructive logic of punitive systems? How can we decolonize and de-racialize punitive systems in the Americas? How can we repair violations and injustices committed in the name of the legal or punitive apparatus in the Americas? These are some of the questions we intend to explore at the Conference "Coloniality, raciality, punishment and reparation in the Americas, 19th and 21st centuries".

The four days of the conference will offer **keynotes, round tables, working groups (WGs) and mini-courses**.

For further information: <http://www.iea.usp.br> <https://www.institutdesameriques.fr>

How to participate

This call for papers refers to the proposal of WGs and short courses, preferably in person. A hybrid panel is possible, if justified. Priority will be given to collective proposals gathering scholars and non-scholars. The participation of political activists is encouraged.

1- Working groups (WGs)

The WGs will offer four 1.5-hour sessions throughout the Conference. Their aim is to welcome collective and individual papers and encourage dialogue between researchers and social movement activists.

The WGs can be coordinated by up to three people, and at least one of the coordinators must have a PhD. Proposals must include a description of the participant(s) and their institution(s), as well as their mini-bio, an abstract with no more than 500 words and a short bibliography.

Master's, doctoral and non-academic students may participate as presenters in the WGs according to the guidelines that will be published in a **second circular**.

2- Mini-courses

The mini-courses should be aligned with the Conference's thematic axes. Their objective is to present, in a didactic and provocative way, experiences and reflections on the relationship between coloniality, raciality, punishment and reparation. The target audience will be undergraduate and postgraduate students and social movement activists.

The mini-courses will offer four distinct 1.5-hour sessions, spread over the four days of the Conference. Applicants must submit an abstract (maximum 500 words) and a short bibliography of the course. No academic qualifications will be required from applicants

Proposals for WGs and mini-courses must be sent by May 15, 2024 to the following address: colonialidade2024@gmail.com

Thematic axes:

1. Coloniality and raciality as devices of punishment.
2. Coloniality, raciality and punishment in the formation of borders
3. Strategies of insurgency: decolonizing and de-racializing punitive systems in the Americas
4. Memory, justice, and reparation
5. Gender and punishment
6. Insurgencies in the Americas: from anti-slavery struggles to struggles for rights
7. Coloniality and raciality as social markers for Reparations and Justice

Working languages: Portuguese, Spanish, English, and French.

Accessibility: all facilities are adapted to accommodate people with reduced mobility.

Calendar:

May 15: deadline for WG proposals

July 15: deadline for Mini-courses proposals)

June 15: announcement of approved WGs and publication of the **Second Circular**.

August 15: final date for accepting papers in the WGs and publication of the **Third Circular**, with announcement of the approved Mini-courses

September 1: deadline for WG coordinators to send the list of approved papers.

September 15: Announcement of the papers accepted by the WGs and publication of the **Fourth Circular**.

Partner institutions::



Institut des Amériques (IdA); Grupo de Pesquisa em Direitos Humanos, Democracia e Memória do Instituto de Estudos Avançados da Universidade de São Paulo (GPDH-IEA/USP); Grupo de Pesquisa Colonização Penitenciária na América Latina e Caribe (CoPALC); Université de Guyane; Instituto Beja; Consulado Geral da França em São Paulo; Centre d'Histoire du XIX^e siècle UR 3550 (Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne/Sorbonne-Université); Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências Humanas e Sociais (PCHS/UFABC); PPGFDH/UFGD; Culturas e Identidades Brasileiras (IEB-USP); Philosophie/Univ. Paris 8; Núcleo de Justiça Racial e Direito da FGV; Ouvidoria das Policias do Estado de São Paulo; Movimento Negro Unificado (MNU); Escola Superior da Defensoria Pública do Estado de São Paulo; Afro CEBRAP; Núcleo de Estudos da Violência da USP (NEV); Instituto de Investigações Históricas Leoni Pinto (INIHLEP-UNT); Instituto de Investigações sobre Cultura Popular (IICP-UNT); Departamento de História da FFLCH-USP.

