



DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN POST-COLONIALISMS AND CITIZENSHIP

Knowledge, sustainability and cognitive justice

Teaching Staff

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The possibility of conceiving opposing knowledges that are alternative or complementary to modern science necessarily entails the criticism of this science itself as an epistemic model. The modernity of the “North” constitutes a device triggering otherness which, in name of reason and humanism, exclude other knowledges from its imaginary, the potential hybridization of knowledges, ambiguity and uncertainties associated to the diverse contemporary social forms.

Consequently, the colonial situation cannot be regarded merely as a political, economic and social management model pertaining to a certain phase in the development of the economies and policies of the “North”. It shall also be established on its cultural data exchange dialectic, in which its agonistic character arises from the authoritative and asymmetrical nature of the clashing cultures. Accordingly, the “South”, acknowledging the existence of other knowledges on nature and on society, utters all forms of subordination of knowledges arising from the global capitalist system.

The colonial/post-colonial relation therefore provides a privileged analysis window of the practices and discourses of knowledge as a form of power. This course will pursue to deconstruct the colonial narrative written by the colonizer and replace it for narratives and visions of alternative solutions, in the search for an emancipatory knowledge. The construction of a full-fledged citizenship is not possible without cognitive justice, without acknowledging the presence of diverse ways of understanding, of knowing and explaining the world. All knowledges deserve and bind to an equal respect, and shall be present in our daily work, being continuously assessed and related to other knowledges. The course will privilege an extensive analysis of the rupture, the continuity and the cross-contamination among knowledges, from a multidisciplinary and situational perspective.

