



**Thinking Decolonization Hemispherically:
Race, Indigeneity, and Coloniality in the Americas**

December 8, 2018

Andrew W. Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Race and Indigeneity in the Americas
Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA

This interdisciplinary graduate student symposium is a call to think decolonization *hemispherically*. Hemispheric Thinking, as conceptualized by Juliet Hooker (2017), draws attention to the ways that ideas in one part of the Americas develop in relation to the “other” America. Thinking decolonization hemispherically requires us to consider how discourses and projects of decolonization are conceived across the Americas, how they travel, and how they may learn from one another. To this end, the task of this symposium is to put into dialogue experiences of colonialism and decolonization beyond geopolitical and linguistic borders.

In order to do this, we take up Hooker’s methodological suggestion to juxtapose, rather than compare, decolonial movements and ideas in the Americas. While comparison often relies on selective misreadings of ideas in the interest of evaluating the superiority of one vis a vis the other, juxtaposition allows us to consider ideas simultaneously; to understand their resonances and discontinuities, and to situate them in the contexts from which they emerge (Hooker 2017, 13). **We are calling for papers from graduate students in any discipline in the humanities or social sciences that offer analyses of decolonial theories, practices, and struggles in the Americas, including Latin America, the Caribbean, the U.S., and Canada.** Through their juxtaposition in this symposium, we seek to generate insight into the commonalities and differences in diverse decolonial movements that may bring us closer to bringing about decolonial futures.

Papers in this symposium might address questions such as: How do we put into dialogue different understandings of the colonial problem (eg. Settler Colonialism (Wolfe 1999) and Coloniality (Quijano 2000))? How do different racial ideologies, such as *mestizaje*, shape how actors participate in decolonial projects? How do decolonial projects address the problem of white supremacy in different contexts? Of Anti-Blackness? How do processes of migration and forced displacement complicate these relationships? How might we learn from diverse struggles for self-determination across scales and contexts? How do we understand relationships between competing regimes of sovereignty, and democratic movements for inclusion, human rights, and citizenship (e.g. #NoBansOnStolenLand)? How do the arts, social movements, and other forms of decolonial production aid in imagining decolonial futures? What are the limitations of these imaginings? What are their possibilities? What new challenges to decolonization emerge in this current historical moment in which the region is seeing a swing toward right-wing regimes?

This one-day symposium is part of the 2018-2019 Sawyer Seminar on Race and Indigeneity in the Americas at Brown University’s Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The seminar will feature a keynote address by Dr. Catherine Walsh (Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar).

Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words, as well a 100 word biography via this [submission form](#) by **September 14, 2018**. Postulants will be notified within two weeks. If accepted, papers will be due to discussants by **November 5, 2018**. The symposium cannot provide support for travel costs. However, we can assist in finding lodging, if needed. Questions: lauren_deal@brown.edu.