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CAN THE UNIVERSITY DECOLONIZE?

**An Introduction to Key Ideas in Critical University Studies
with Abigail Fagan**

When Jeffrey Williams coined the term “critical university studies” in 2012, the discourse was by no means invested in de- or anti-colonial thinking. Instead, authors like Marc Bousquet and Christopher Newfield addressed the ways in which neoliberalism had “ruined” public universities in the United States and promoted an exploitative work culture that profoundly negatively affected undergraduate and graduate students and adjunct instructors. More recently, however, students and university employees have witnessed and participated in a variety of calls to “decolonize” aspects of the university, such as curricula, research metrics and topics, and occasionally with respect to university’s use of Indigenous land.

This workshop will provide a brief introduction to key elements of critical university discourses today, before shifting into a conversation with participants about their own positionality in the power dynamics of university structures.

Content note: discussion of the violences of settler colonialism and other forms of colonization

Abigail Fagan is finishing up her postdoctoral project, “Spoils: Settler Colonialism and the University in the United States,” at the Leibniz University in Hannover. She received her PhD in 2019 from the University of Connecticut; her dissertation is currently under review in book form, titled *The Radical Potential of 19th-Century American Temperance Literature*.

Participation in this workshop is by invitation. Select readings will be pre-circulated. For registration and other related questions, interested candidates are invited to reach out to Gulsin Ciftci via email: gulsin.ciftci@uni-muenster.de.