



CALL FOR PAPERS

4th Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop *Minorities and the Making of Post-Colonial Europe*

Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland

May 6-7, 2024

Europe is now home to an ever-increasing number of minorities and immigrant communities from former imperial colonies and the larger ‘Third World’. Scholarly analyses deploying historical and sociological research techniques have long focused on post-World War Two state practices of decolonization and on the experiences of minorities resettling in ex-colonial states. While newer research has focused on the role of imperial legacies in shaping the story of immigrant communities in Europe, the idea of a post-colonial Europe remains vague as postcolonial analytical perspectives continue to be typically applied to ex-colonies rather than to Europe itself. In what ways did the migration and integration practices of ex-imperial states influence minorities in Europe? How did these communities navigate legal and sociocultural limitations to carve out their sociopolitical and cultural spaces, and what role did connections with their origin countries play in shaping their activities in Europe? How have immigrant communities and minorities contributed to the formation of present-day Europe?

The 4th Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop thus proposes to explore the perpetual conversation between the colonizers and the colonized in their imperial afterlife and aims to bring together doctoral candidates and early-career researchers in History and Sociology to understand whether we can truly speak of a post-colonial Europe. Moreover, we believe that a focus on the mutual connections between minorities and ex-imperial states opens up a new wave of methodological and epistemological challenges. Though ‘minorities’ are central to the sociology of migration, the discipline has tended to view this notion as fixed in meaning and only since the 1990s has it recognized the necessity of treating such categories as historically conditioned and intertwined with social and political contexts. Thus, by making the ‘minorities’ central to our discussion, the workshop presents an opportunity to bridge two different disciplines – History and Sociology – to conceive of new theoretical and methodological approaches to the topic at hand. We intend to navigate the overlaps and analytical gray areas between the disciplines and set up a suitable forum for larger questions on what they can learn from each other.

We welcome applications on topics which may include but are not limited to:

- State-based migration and integration policies

- Decolonization practices
- Strategy of integration enacted by immigrant communities
- Solidarity Networks
- Political / cultural / social activism
- Cross-border practices
- Radicalism in immigrant communities in Europe
- Post-Colonial intellectuals in Europe
- Exile and diasporas

We encourage prospective participants to submit abstracts between 350-400 words by 28 February 2024. Please include your name and academic affiliation, and highlight the keywords in your research. We intend to propose a special publication in a relevant academic journal based on the presentations and will provide more details on this soon. Participation in this workshop is free, with limited financial support available for PhDs travelling from outside Switzerland.

Please email the abstracts to Michele Benazzo (michele.benazzo@graduateinstitute.ch) and Gauri Saxena (gauri.saxena@graduateinstitute.ch), who can also be contacted for additional enquiries.

Workshop Organizers:

Michele Benazzo, PhD Candidate in International History and Politics, Geneva Graduate Institute

Gauri Saxena, PhD Candidate in Anthropology and Sociology, Geneva Graduate Institute