

Call for Papers

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DECOLONIZING MALAYSIAN EDUCATION

Conference Dates: June 2026

Location: VE Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The epistemic architecture of global social sciences remains deeply embedded in Eurocentric narratives that marginalize diverse ontologies and indigenous epistemologies. The International Conference on Decolonizing Self, Shelves, and Social Sciences aims to disrupt these intellectual monopolies by fostering critical dialogues among scholars, practitioners, and activists from around the world. This conference envisions a transformative space where entrenched paradigms are interrogated, and alternative narratives are constructed to realign global knowledge systems with justice and inclusivity.

The theoretical foundation of this conference rests on the concept of "epistemic disobedience" (Mignolo, 2011), which emphasizes resisting imposed knowledge hierarchies and reclaiming intellectual sovereignty. This is closely tied to Spivak's (1988) call for "stopping the writing of wrongs" by centering marginalized voices. The philosophical approach is enriched by the spirit of "alternative sociological genres" proposed by Hussein Alatas (1977), advocating for an intellectual renaissance that emerges from indigenous perspectives rather than imposed colonial frameworks.

Colonial legacies have historically shaped what is considered "valid" knowledge, rendering non-Western traditions peripheral (Quijano, 2000). By centering decolonial praxis, the conference aligns with Aristotle's notion of *phronesis*, meaning practical wisdom applied for the welfare of the community (Aristotle, trans. 2004). This is expanded through indigenous epistemological principles emphasizing commoning, holism, and relational integration of spiritual, ecological, and social realities (Wilson, 2008). Knowledge, therefore, is not merely instrumental but reciprocal and co-constitutive (Chowdhury et al., 2022).

Collectively, if our epistemic genres in philosophy, sociology, anthropology, social work, and related disciplines are reimagined through these lenses, the conference can dismantle entrenched intellectual hierarchies. It urges participants to rethink methodologies, frameworks, and theoretical lenses through which social sciences are conceptualized, taught, and practiced.

The act of "commoning"—reclaiming the commons in both intellectual and social spheres—becomes a central metaphor of this gathering. In the realm of knowledge production, commoning signifies a collective process of sharing, producing, and sustaining knowledge outside the confines of market-driven academia (Linebaugh, 2008). By justifying common interests through shared futures, the conference foregrounds an ethical commitment to global solidarity and intellectual reciprocity.

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The conference also seeks to interrogate the ontological assumptions underpinning key disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, and social work. These fields, often born out of colonial enterprises, have contributed to the surveillance and categorization of colonized subjects (Smith, 1999). Decolonizing these disciplines involves more than revising curricula; it necessitates rethinking the very nature of social inquiry by integrating indigenous cosmologies, community-led research, and non-Western epistemic traditions.

The anticipated impact of this intellectual convergence extends beyond academic institutions. It proposes a "pluriversal" approach to knowledge, embracing a world in which many worlds fit (Escobar, 2018). In this spirit, the conference strives to generate actionable knowledge that challenges power asymmetries while promoting transdisciplinary collaborations. This praxis-driven approach aspires to reshape global academia by establishing long-term research partnerships, fostering ethical collaborations, and amplifying marginalized voices in policymaking and public discourse.

Moreover, the conference challenges the commodification of knowledge perpetuated by neoliberal academic structures. By situating knowledge as a shared commons rather than a privatized resource, the event advocates for a radical reimagination of intellectual labor. This intellectual insurgency aligns with calls for "intellectual activism"—a praxis that integrates academic inquiry with socio-political engagement (Collins, 2019).

Ultimately, the International Conference on Decolonizing Self, Shelves, and Social Sciences seeks to move beyond theoretical posturing toward creating a sustainable intellectual commons. It invites participants to envision a world where diverse knowledge systems coexist, where scholarship serves humanity, and where communities collectively reclaim their right to theorize, narrate, and transform their realities.

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Conference Themes:

1. The Rooted Philosophy of Decolonization

Your Left Is My Right, because west in for justfng individualistic interest, self interest, that is an opposite stand of eastn commonality and commoning spirit of east.

- Re-examining personal and collective identities within colonized and postcolonial contexts.
- Decolonizing knowledge production and intellectual traditions.
- Reclaiming agency in the representation of self and societies.

2. Decolonizing Anthropology

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- Rethinking anthropological research methodologies.
- Incorporating indigenous knowledge systems and epistemologies.
- Addressing issues of representation and cultural appropriation.

3. Decolonizing Social Work:

- Critiquing Eurocentric social welfare models.
- Promoting culturally sensitive practices in community development.
- Localizing social work frameworks through grassroots perspectives.

4. Decolonizing Sociology:

- Reframing sociological theories and concepts through a decolonial lens.
- Exploring alternative sociological paradigms from the Global South.
- Challenging colonial legacies in social research and education.

5. Decolonizing Theater and Music:

- Unpacking performative traditions in postcolonial narratives.
- Resisting colonial interpretations in artistic expressions.
- Promoting indigenous narratives through creative arts.

6. Decolonizing Arts and Literary Genres:

- Reclaiming marginalized creative voices.
- Resisting colonial aesthetics in arts, literature, and criticism.
- Encouraging global literary and artistic diversity.

Submission Guidelines:

Abstract Submission:

- Word Limit: 300 words
- Include title, author name(s), affiliation(s), and contact details.

Full Paper Submission:

- Word Limit: 4,000 - 6,000 words all inclusive
- Formatting: APA 7th.
- Language: English (submissions in other languages must include an English translation).

Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: January 30, 2026

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- Notification of Acceptance: Feb 15, 2026
 - Full Paper Submission Deadline: April 30, 2026
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Peer Review Process:

All submitted papers will undergo a rigorous double-blind peer-review process to ensure scholarly quality and relevance to the conference themes.

Publication Opportunity:

Accepted papers will be considered for publication in a **Scopus-indexed journal** (subject to an additional article publication fee). The journal will evaluate papers for originality, research depth, and contribution to decolonial discourse.

Participation Modes:

- **Oral Presentations** (Individual or Panel)
 - **Workshops & Roundtable Discussions**
 - **Artistic and Performative Presentations** (For artists, performers, and creators)
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Registration Fees:

- Early Bird Registration: April 30, 2026
 - Regular Registration: April
 - Students & Emerging Scholars:
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Contact Details:

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Join us in this critical dialogue on reshaping social sciences and beyond through a decolonial lens. We look forward to your valuable contributions!

References

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