

## Programme

### Decentrings.

#### The Souths and the epistemological challenges of a common world.

The notion of *decenterings* refers to a process that calls for gathering different sites subsumed under the concept of *souths*. Thereby would be tested, both in theory and in practice, social sciences organised within the framework of a hegemonic *episteme* imposed by the west. This tension between the latter (the western *episteme*), acting as a regulator of relationships between different forms of knowledge at a specific time in history, and the souths, illustrates this displacement well. *Decenterings* amounts to querying the cognitive and political reconfiguration of the world since the '80s and especially since the end of the Cold War, with a view to understanding the potential of possible new epistemological approaches. Indeed the souths emerge, both outside the west by trying to have *epistemes* from other continents recognised, as well as *within* the west in the reconfigurations of the terms of university research in the critique both of the categories of domination through positing the universal, as well as of those that, inversely, much exaggerate particular prerogatives, in the claim to a new disciplinary distribution recognising its right place in relation to Humanities. The “souths” also emerge in new methods for the organisation of knowledge going beyond the division into area studies. This conference therefore calls for understanding the *souths* through the gaps, unorthodox places, resistant lines (*lignes de fuite*) where alternative *epistemes* emerge.

This interdisciplinary conference endeavours to go beyond national logics of knowledge organisation. It provides, on the one side, a debating space where knowledges from Asia, Latin America, Africa or elsewhere are given precedence; on the other, one where knowledges resulting from claims for the recognition of their human rights, are carried by various social groups in the west and elsewhere, groups excluded in whatever way, whether in terms of race, gender, class, etc. The various presentations will delimit at the same time a pluriverse. They will take into account the different genealogies of the non-hegemonic conceptual apparatuses and corresponding concepts, and will also present various approaches to the construction, transmission and reception of knowledges, with the goal of investing them into the thinking and speaking of a common world.

**26 November 2015**

**Centre Calouste Gulbenkian**

39 Boulevard de la Tour-Maubourg, 75007 Paris

Metro : La Tour-Maubourg (line 8)

**27-28 November 2015**

**Reid Hall, Columbia University, Paris**

4 Rue de Chevreuse, 75006 Paris

Metro : Vavin (line 4)

26 November 2015

9:00-10:00 Official opening of the conference

10:00-13:00 – Idea of Souths

**President of the session: Thomas Brisson**, Université Paris 8-Vincennes Saint Denis, France

10:00-10:30 **Naoki Sakai**, Cornell University, USA  
*The West and Self-referentiality - Colonial Modernity: Asian Identity and Civilizational Transference*

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

#### **ROUND TABLE 1**

11:00-12:20 **Gaurav Desai**, Tulane University, USA  
*'Frail Skiffs Tossed on the Ocean of Life': Gender and Romance in Nineteenth Century Zanzibar*

**Fabian Sanabria**, National University of Colombia, Colombia  
*Au-delà du feuilleton. Un scénario pour sortir de la violence : Patrimoine archéologique et post-conflit en Colombie*

**Serge Massamba**, EHESS-IMAF, France  
*Philosophie et spécificité africaine*

**Arunasalam Balasubramaniam**, National University of Singapore  
*Chinese Organic Materialism and Asian Science Studies: Rethinking the Needham*  
(Presented by Jon Solomon)

12:20-13:00 Discussion

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-17:00 – Decolonisation of knowledge

**President of the session: Remy Bazenguissa-Ganga**, EHESS-IMAF, France

14:00-14:30 **Nelson Maldonado-Torrès**, Rutgers University, USA  
*European Sciences, Discipline, and Method: The Formation of the Secular Line and the Color Line*

#### **ROUND TABLE 2**

14:30-15:10 **Paola Bacchetta**, Berkeley University, USA  
*Planétarités situées*

**Allison Sanders**, EHESS-IMAF, France  
*The decentring of French research in Africa – the case of ORSTOM and IFAN in Senegal*

15:10-15:40 Coffee break

15:40-16:20 **António Tomás**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa  
*New epistemologies for a decolonized university*

**Madina Tlostanova**, Linköping University, Sweden / Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Russia  
*Can the post-Socialist think? The geo-politics and body-politics of knowledge, and the global decoloniality*  
(Presented by Rada Iveković)

16:20-17:00 Discussion

17:00 Cocktail

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**9:30-13:00 – Re-questioning categories of domination**

**President of the session: Gisèle Sapiro**, CNRS-EHESS

**9:30-10:00**      **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**, Columbia University, USA  
*Uncoercive Rearrangement of Desires: Housing the body.*

**ROUND TABLE 3**

- 10:00-10:40**      **Barnita Bagchi**, University of Utrecht, Netherlands  
*Decolonizing the Mind: Utopias, Speculative Fiction, and the Decentring from Global Souths of Dominant Epistemologies*
- Catarina Antunes Gomes**, Agostinho Neto University, Angola / Centro estudos sociais, Portugal  
*Bearing life or a widow's tale. A meditation on vulnerability, recognition and transcendence*
- 10:40-11:10**      **Coffee break**
- 11:10-12:30**      **Armelle Cressent**, EHESS-IMAF, France  
*The impact of colonial library on our minds: Reading Mudimbe and Foucault with Eboussi-Boulaga*
- 12:30-13:00**      **Discussion**
- 13:00-14:00**      **Lunch**

**14:00-17:00 - Translations : the future of a common world**

**President of the session: Catarina Madeira-Santos**, EHESS-IMAF, France

**14:00-14:30**      **Simon Gikandi**, Princeton University, USA  
*Slavery and Civilization: Rethinking Economies of Modern Death*

**ROUND TABLE 4**

- 14:30-15:15**      **Frieda Ekotto**, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, USA  
*Shakespeare in African dress: Negotiating a new black identity*
- Jon Solomon**, Jean-Moulin Lyon-3 University, France  
*Translation Enlightenment: Towards a Transcultural Meaning of Enlightenment*
- 15:15-15:30**      **Coffee break**
- 15:30-16:30**      **Orazio Irrera**, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, France  
*Du Dhandak à l'incendiarisme planifié : pour une généalogie coloniale de la mésopolitique en Inde*
- 16:30-17:00**      **Discussion**
- 17:00**                **Cocktail**

28 November 2015

9:30-13:00 – Escape routes

**President of the session: Jesús García-Ruiz**, CNRS-CESOR, France

**9:30-10:00**     **Joyce C. H. Liu**, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan  
*Confucianism and its Limits: Wherefrom the Emancipatory Epistemology?*

**ROUND TABLE 5**

**10:00-10:40**     **Dandan Jiang**, Jiaotong University, China  
*Le pluriel et la subjectivité : un dialogue transculturel autour de la pensée taoïste*

**Nadia Yala Kisukidi**, University of Geneva, Switzerland / CIPh, Paris  
*D'un renversement critique : les langages religieux de l'émancipation*

**10:40-11:10**     **Coffee break**

**11:10-12:00**     **Rigoberto Queme**, Instituto Munikat, Guatemala  
*Epistemologías de las sociedades y concepción del poder: 45 años de luchas indigenistas*

**Kadya Tall**, IRD-IMAF, France  
*Candomblé au Brésil : l'épistémè de la fraternité raciale*

**12:00-12:40**     **Discussion**

**12:40-13:00**     **Conclusion**