The Ongoing GRIP of Colonialism in our Language & Knowledge



"There is so much continuity that we CANNOT disentangle the ideas held today from the ideas from the past. It is important to consider the real-world effects and consequences of these past ideas."

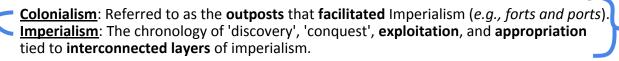
(Kim Tallbear, 2013)

Assessing Terminology

- Ethnicity: Relates to social and cultural norms, symbols, and cultural differences. Not always distinguishable from the idea of 'race' & used as its 'politically correct' code word.
- Racism: Ideological element of signification to select and to legitimize the selection of a particular **population** whose labour-power will be **exploited** to benefit the system of rule.



- Discourse: A body of speech/writing as a particular way of representation. Not a closed system with **consequences** for its use & to those who are subject to it.
- **<u>Discursive Formation</u>**: Several statements working together.
- Discursive Practice: The practice of producing meaning. All practices have discursive practices!



Colonialism and imperialism are INTERCONNECTED!

Decolonization: Centring **Indigenous concerns and world views**, a process that engages with imperialism and colonization at multiple levels (i.e., underlying assumptions, understandings, past & present) so that these problems are NOT reproduced in our future writings and understandings.

The Doctrine of

Discoveru

The court's refusal to

challenge the racist

origins of "Canada"

assumed sovereign

authority over Indigenous peoples and their

territories

e.g., Delgamu'uk decision

LAND BACK Movement (4rsyouth.ca)

(Tuhiwai Smith, 2012; Miles, 1994; & Hall, 2018)

Discourse of the West & "the Rest"

Discourse was how the West **behaved towards** the rest and established itself against the other as a regime of knowledge.

Europe formed language and discourses to represent the difference between itself and the others during the **encounter** with other cultures.

These discourse are still ongoing as conceptual categories.

Indigenous histories, cultures and languages were interrupted and radically silenced, misinterpreted, and reformulated by European imperialism.

Attempts at **Reconciliation** are reframed colonial project of indigenous disappearance... Reconciliation on the state's terms requires indigenous leaders to recognize assumed crown sovereignty!

foundations of colonial relationships undisturbed.

Recognition in **strategic domestication** leaves the



Colonial powers will recognize collective rights and identities as long as this recognition does not question the legal, political, economic, frameworks of the **colonial relationship** itself.

(Coulthard, 2014; Tuhiwai Smith, 2012; & Hall, 2018)

Racial World System

'Race' = system of rule from ABOVE

Institutionalized forgetting of the origin and meaning of 'race' has **disguised** the violence/coercion of its origin and purpose.

The **history is all around** us but **nothing** around us helps understand/remember this history.

Antiracism = from BELOW



Racism as a force to be opposed and resisted.

Genealogy of DNA as a Concept...

- Produced through reinvention of 'gene talk', concepts of **blood** and inheritance.
- The way in which DNA reflect power as an object identity and **knowledge**.

Real World Power Imbalance



Some people's ideas are **made** to matter more than others.



What is "DNA"?

- All humans share the same DNA structure and basically the same genome.
- Most markers of ancestry & close biological relationships don't actually code for anything.
- Patterns of genetic variations are NOT visually observable and do not correlate with phenotypical variation (skin, hair or bones).
- We differ individually at certain places from person to person.



How Science is Complicit...



- Knowledge producing cultures/practices **shaped earlier research**.
- Continues to influence the way in which science in done today!
- Bodies, body parts, and fluids were used to constitute knowledge of human biological and cultural history.
- Scientific language has changed over and over... YET continue to use categories of the past to identify people!
 - "Native American, European, Asian, and African"
- The population specific markers studied actually mirror the cultural, racial, ethnic, national, and tribal understandings of the people who study them NOT those they mean to identify.

(Tallbear, 2013)

Fighting Back...

- We should study and teach things that **nourish capacities to dream of a future**.
- 'Race' is more invisible than ever, but race identity shape life chances.
- Acknowledge that exclusionary politics all rely on racism.
- Social collectivity require explanation, NOT be assumed as natural and universal.
- **Investigate** the construction and reproduction of the idea of race.
- 'Race' needs to be represented as a social process and explained,
 NOT a social fact to explain other facts
- Struggle against imperialism cannot only happen at the textual level... lived experiences should be taken
 into account on how imperialism can be understood:
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- Reclaiming history is essential to decolonization
- Creating a post-liberation national culture
- Critiquing Western history and the way it has been written/constructed hand-in-hand with colonialism and imperialism
- Viewing DNA as a matter of social/political relationships ... NOT about the body and CANNOT be defined by the body.

(Tuhiwai Smith, 2012; Miles, 1994; Tallbear, 2013; & Winant, 2015)

Books that Interrupt Colonialism...

- From a Native Daughter by Haunani Kay Trask
- **Mohawk Interruptions** by Audra Sympson
- Orientalism by Edward Said
- Native American DNA by Kim Tallbear
- This Bridge Called my Back by Cherrie Moraga
- Warrior Life by Pam Palmer
- Red Earth White Lies by Vine Deloria, Jr.



Let's interrupt the Eurocentric UNIFORMITY in our bookshelves and libraries!

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