

## RESEARCH CLINIC

### General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Densua Mumford
Title of clinic:	Decolonising the Teaching and Learning of International Relations
Number of students:	Up to 8 (students of any major may apply)
Major ( <i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i> ):	World Politics
(Pre)requisites ( <i>if applicable</i> ):	At least one of the core WP 100-level courses: Intro to IR and Diplomacy, Globalisation and Transnational Politics, Peace and Conflict Studies, Birth of the Modern World

### Research context

Our community at the LUC is teaching and learning colonial knowledge. This is perpetuating racialised hierarchical relations that can only be mitigated by decolonising the curriculum. But there are significant ambiguities about what it means to “decolonise the curriculum”. Part of the process may include diversifying the scholars listed in a syllabus... but is that all? To bring conceptual clarity and to delineate the range of actions involved in decolonising the curriculum, this research clinic will engage with the basic research question “What does it mean to decolonise the teaching and learning of International Relations (IR)?” While the focus of the research clinic will remain narrowly on the discipline of IR, lessons about how to decolonise may be learned from any discipline and any educational institution. The clinic will proceed in two block-length phases, and students will work in pairs on specific aspects of the clinic (see below). This research clinic is being hosted in the context of the “Decolonisation Working Group”, as part of a bigger project to decolonise education at the LUC, meaning students of any major may apply.

### Students’ tasks and activities

*Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be.*

#### **2 General Outputs (first block):**

First, students will conduct research to produce a working definition(s) of what it means to “decolonise the curriculum” in the discipline of IR. This involves exploring the various ways in which this concept has been understood in the relevant literature and composing one that will work for the LUC and the major. Second, students will investigate how this concept has been implemented in higher education institutions across different global contexts (e.g. South Africa, North America etc) to specify the range of actions that may be employed to decolonise the study of IR in the major. Students will be assessed on the depth, nuance, and professionalism of the policy papers they produce, as well as short reflections on their experience.

#### **4 Major-Specific Outputs (second block):**

Depending on the number of students accepted, the research clinic may produce up to four specific outputs for the World Politics major. Students will work in pairs on the following topics and will be assessed on a presentation of their findings to staff of the World Politics major and short reflections on their experience.

- setting up between 1-3 town hall meetings on the findings of the research clinic to stimulate wider debate at the LUC on what it means to decolonise the curriculum
- make specific proposals on how to mainstream the decolonisation of the curriculum across the entire major
- reconceptualise the role of the “regional trends” courses in the major according to principles of decolonising the curriculum
- develop a new first-year course that combines global history and art in a de-Westernised manner