

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Maja Vodopivec
Title of clinic:	Decolonising the university through oral histories
Number of students:	Up to 8
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	Students from any major may apply. The course is especially suited for HD: CHS major students.
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	One of the history courses offered at HD: CHS major would be good but please contact the teacher if you are enthusiastic about this topic but might not have the prerequisite.

Research context

This research clinic is a part of the “Decolonisation Working Group” project, a bigger initiative to decolonise LUC’s curriculum and practice. The basic premise of the class is a belief that decolonising the university (diversifying the knowledge practices of how we teach /assess, how we learn/evaluate, how we do things at the university) is a necessary condition for obtaining skills to tackle contemporary societal challenges and achieving academic excellence. In this course, we will question some dominant views of what research is, how it should look like and how we can think differently about what we know and how the knowledge is produced. This course approach to decolonising knowledge will be through oral histories and storytelling of our university’s students, teachers and administrative staff but also people we know, our parents, relatives and friends. Staughton Lynd in *Accompanying: Pathways to Social Change* (2013) wrote: ‘There is an obvious and intimate connection between accompaniment and oral history. When we walk beside someone, each learning from the other, we do not exchange written memoranda. We talk.’ Everyone is a product of a specific experience and educational background and we cannot propose any solutions before we understand what people with whom we agree, and those who oppose us, have experienced. We will pay a particular attention to the memories of the past people carry into the present and how those memories evolve.

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.

Preparation (Block 1):

We will first learn about the basic concepts/practices of oral history and then aim at collecting accounts of individuals close to us who are willing / have something to say in their own words about the curriculum, knowledge production, teaching, learning, diversity, racial or ethnic discrimination in higher education. The idea is to collect various individual stories, which can be later used by wider community to further inform the process of learning what ‘colonization of the university’ practices are and then how to decolonise the university. In block 1, we will read and weekly discuss various sources that should help us prepare for interviewing and collect the stories in block 2.

Outputs (Block 2):

Depending on the number of students accepted, the research clinic will also produce up to three specific outputs, such as:

- Written collection of stories related to decolonising higher education;
- Art posters with thought-provoking messages related to decolonising the university theme;
- Potentially, depending on the students’ drawing skills, we will create a graphic novel.