

Wednesday Seminars

LECTURE SERIES IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

20.05.2026 | 5 p.m. | @ Übungsraum IKSA | NIG, 4th floor

Alessandra Mezzadri (SOAS University of London)
Decolonizing Social Reproduction and Global Capitalism Narratives



Alessandra Mezzadri is Professor in Global Development and Political Economy at SOAS, London. She is the author of *The Sweatshop Regime* (CUP, 2017, 2021), lead-author of *The Social Life of Industrial Disputes* (ILO, 2023), editor of *Marx in the Field* (Anthem, 2021, 2023), co-editor of the *Handbook of Research on the Global Political Economy of Work* (Edward Elgar, 2023). She has written extensively on global labour relations and informality; social reproduction, value, and exploitation; Marxian-Feminist methodologies; and the global political economy of India. She is currently writing a manuscript provisionally titled: *Life of Development: Feminist Cartographies of Social Reproduction in the Planetary Social Factory*.

In this presentation, I reflect critically on Black, Decolonial and/or Global South-centred feminist critiques to Early Social Reproduction approaches (ESRA) and Social Reproduction Theory (SRT), with the objective of mapping points of dialogue and interplay that may move us towards a common feminist horizon. First, I will sketch some of the continuities between ESRA and analyses focused on racial capitalism and/or on the racialisation of reproduction, in relation to understandings of primitive accumulation and value-generation, extraction and exploitation. Secondly, I will reflect on the linkages between SRT and intersectional feminism centering class. Based on the above, and in line with recent radical analyses of care and agrarian change, I will argue that to be inclusive of gendered experiences worldwide, analyses of social reproduction must centre the home as well as the colony and land as structuring forces of regimes of social reproduction. Overall, through 'pluralising social reproduction approaches' we can develop a theoretical and political agenda aimed at decolonising productivist approaches to global capitalism and development process.



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