

SAGE HANDBOOK OF DECOLONIAL THEORY

Call for Proposals

Rationale for the Handbook

Recent debates have pointed to the decolonial discourses, histories, and liberatory practices from the Global South that are silenced within dominant academic spaces in the Global North. These ongoing debates suggest there is a tendency to empty the political content of concepts or texts (e.g., coloniality) by ignoring the contexts or sites of struggle (praxis) in which discourses are articulated. Another tendency is to confine decolonial theory within a discipline when its origins are transdisciplinary (and undisciplinary). It is for this reason that the proposed SAGE Handbook of Decolonial Theory takes a transdisciplinary approach by featuring the work of scholars who, on the one hand, advance theory that unsettles disciplinary boundaries, and, on the other, take a praxis-oriented mode of theorizing alongside sites of struggle.

Since decolonial theory is broad in geographic scope, this Handbook also proposes to amplify decolonial discourses and practices emerging from regions often left out of the conversation in dominant academic spaces. This book hence seeks to broaden the understanding of decolonial theories while pointing to a planetary understanding of colonial structures and histories (Pratt, 2022). More importantly, this book aims to highlight the theories and praxes emerging from distinct yet historically connected places.

To make these planetary connections more visible, this SAGE Handbook will include transdisciplinary contributions that advance theoretical, methodological, and empirical studies that make explicit the geopolitical, economic, social, and cultural intimacies across geographical boundaries. It reclaims the militancy and internationalism of anticolonial thought and praxis and grafts it with decolonial theories and methodologies. This effort seeks to unsettle modern/colonial regimes of knowledge and social arrangements.

As co-editors from the Global South, we find it important to create an editorial space that will avoid reducing the understanding of society through “society or its forms, relations, and processes by looking only within the spatial confines of that society, i.e., the confines of the particular nation-state” (Go, 2009, p. 783). Enclosing the analysis of interlocked systems of domination and exploitation (colonialism, heteropatriarchy, and racial capitalism) solely within a nation-state frame forecloses the analysis of the historical and contemporary social arrangements that are always already enmeshed with other regions. This is what Lisa Lowe (2015) had in mind when conceiving the intimacies of the four continents. It would be difficult therefore to understand the social, cultural, political, and economic arrangements of the nation-state without understanding the state’s geopolitical position within a broader modern/colonial world system framework. Decolonial thought, therefore, offers a broader frame of reference without dismissing the theoretical contributions made by studies focused on the nation-state. It is for this reason that section three includes contributions that bring decolonial thought into dialogues with other perspectives, such as intersectionality, critical race theory, and settler colonial studies, to name a few.

Brief Overview of the Handbook ([Link to Section Descriptions](#))

Part 1: Key Theories, Concepts, and Debates
Part 2: Geopolitics and Geographies
Part 3: Transdisciplinary Decolonial Theory
Part 4: Sexuality and Gender
Part 5: Racial Capitalism

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Writing Your Chapter

For detailed guidelines on writing your chapter, see below.

1. ***Editorial management of the project:*** The overall editorial direction of the project is the responsibility of the editors. However, they work in close collaboration with an international Editorial Advisory Board. The role of the board includes giving guidance and advice on the purpose, structure, and content of the project; advising on contributors; acting as editorial readers of chapter drafts, etc. The editors will divide up responsibilities such that each chapter will have a responsible editor and a board member. The editors encourage chapter authors to contact their responsible editor at any time during the writing and review process, with questions, comments, requests for early or partial reviews, and so forth.
2. ***Co-authoring of chapters:*** We anticipate that most chapters will be single-authored but others will be co-authored. Our approach to commissioning co-authoring is to invite people to act as lead writers for a chapter. Where we anticipate the chapter may be co-authored we will usually suggest to the invited lead writer names of possible co-authors that have emerged during the development phase of the project. We will normally leave the initiative on inviting one co-author to the lead author. We will also leave it to lead writers to agree on the role of any co-author. This may range from acting as resources/consultants to the lead writer to full shared development and writing of the chapter. Our overall editorial role in this matter will consist of ensuring that chapters are not too nationally restricted and that co-authors are themselves committed to the overall aims and approach of the handbook project.
3. ***Chapter content:*** SAGE Handbooks aim to represent cutting-edge contemporary overviews of a field of study within the social sciences and humanities. Individual authors should aim to answer such questions within their chapters as: What is the state of the discipline and field? Where is the discipline or field going? What are the key debates, issues, and theoretical frameworks, both central and emerging, which comprise the discipline or field? What are the changing social and political contexts of the discipline or field? Each chapter should therefore provide a comprehensive review and analysis of the scholarly literature in a specific area of study. Contributors should feel free to engage in interdisciplinary analysis as appropriate to their individual topics. The chapters should be written in a style accessible to the layperson or the undergraduate, but the intended audience is a graduate or post-graduate audience. We also welcome essays that unsettle and go beyond academic writing, as well as embody and poetically express decolonial thought and praxis.
4. ***Length of chapters:*** The total length of the handbook is part of the general contract with SAGE and we cannot deviate from that agreement. The final version of each chapter will be approximately 6000-7000 words and we ask contributors to bear that in mind when writing their first drafts. All references should be included in this target word count.

5. ***Timing:*** Initially, we ask that you provide us with a finalized chapter abstract of between 250-300 words by March 27, 2023. If the abstract is a

drafts are due no later than October 2, 2023. We will respond with comments by December 18, 2023 and ask for completed and polished final drafts by March 4, 2024. Please note that this is a very real deadline, allowing the editors just enough time to do a final edit of all chapters and submit the manuscript for publication by July 1, 2024, with a publication date of May 2025.

6. *Style, referencing, and other conventions*: Once you agree to write a chapter SAGE will provide you with their standard style and format conventions. Within these conventions, we expect different authors will bring different writing styles and voices to their work, but we encourage all authors to strive for clarity and readability in their work, as we expect the readership of the handbook to be quite diverse.
7. *Reviewing*: Chapter drafts will be reviewed by the Editors and the Editorial Advisory Board, and feedback focused on the level, style, and coverage of the chapter will be supplied to authors. When first drafts come in you may also be asked to undertake a light review of another chapter as part of your contribution to the Handbook.

Next Steps

If interested, please submit an abstract of between 250-300 words no later than March 27, 2023 (jairo.funez@ttu.edu). ***State which section you are contributing to.*** Your abstract will be reviewed by the editors who will get back to you with feedback as soon as possible thereafter. The deadline for the first drafts of chapters will be **October 2, 2023**

If you have any questions, please email jairo.funez@ttu.edu. Feel free to contact us if you have any queries regarding this project.

Sincerely,

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