

The West and the Rest? Coloniality and the Arts

Transdisciplinary lecture series, public program 2025

Wednesdays, 5:00–7:30 p.m.

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HSLU Design, Film & Art, Nylsuisseplatz 1, 6020 Emmenbrücke, room V745_055

Organizers: Wolfgang Brückle, Mònica Gaspar, Silvia Henke



This lecture series brings together contributions from representatives of various disciplines to create a dialogue between art, politics, science, and society. We discuss conditions and manifestations of post-coloniality and the calls for decolonization in a world where 'we' (the West) still look at the rest of the world as the Other. How plural is this 'we' to begin with? What are the given and possible roles of the arts (art, design, film) in the discourse and practices of de- and postcoloniality? With the participation of guest speakers from Switzerland and abroad, we aim at examining the entanglements of Switzerland with European colonialism both in the past and the present, as well as the different challenges they pose for public space, museums, design and artistic practices, for archives, and for universities as frameworks of education and values.

Hochschule Luzern
Design Film Kunst
745 Viscosistadt
Nylsuisseplatz 1
6020 Luzern-Emmenbrücke

15.10.2025

Switzerland's Colonial Entanglements

Karl Johannes Rechsteiner (chocolate historian and storyteller, Bern)

Marilyn Umurungi (art and cultural studies researcher, Zurich)

22.10.2025

Re-Imagining Education from a Pluralistic Perspective

Nikita Dhawan (political scientist, Dresden)

Mayar El Bakry (design researcher and educator, Zurich)

Phila Bergmann (Diversity officer DFK, Lucerne)

29.10.2025

Deconstructing Coloniality Through Art

Renzo Martens (artist, Amsterdam and Lusanga)

Siri Peyer (art researcher, Lucerne)

05.11.2025

Decolonising the Archive

Vendela Grundell Gachoud (visual studies researcher, Montreux)

Mo Diener (former artistic director, Roma Jam Session Art Kollektiv, Zurich)

03.12.2025

Toxic Territories, Healing Environments

Catherine Blackburn (artist and jeweller, Thornhill)

Samia Henni (historian and exhibition maker, Montreal)

10.12.2025

Carte Blanche and wrap-up discussion

Theme and guests selected by the students

cover image:

Geraldine Fenn (Johannesburg, ZA), *Brooch Colonial Comeuppance II*, 2022. Silver, found object (miniature painting), trade glass beads. Photo: Sarah de Pina.