

**Azadi (freedom):
Feminist reading group**

Seminar series run as part of the Brunel
**Education 'Interculturality for diversity and
global learning'** Research Group

Feminist reading group led by Dr Geeta Ludhra
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Session 1 of 3: 27.10.22 (4-5.30pm)

Led by Dr Geeta Ludhra



Welcome and House-keeping

Welcome to the 22-23 series:

- House-keeping: mutual respect, sensitivity and kindness when speaking, responding and using the chat. No recordings made, use raised hands icon.
- You will of course get more out of the session if you do the reading.
- I hope you find the sessions thought-provoking and helpful.

- **Main Research Group Link:**
[Interculturality for diversity and global learning | Brunel University London](#)

Zoom Link for Session 1:

Dr Geeta Ludhra is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Feminist Series 22-23: Part 1/3

Time: Oct 27, 2022 04:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

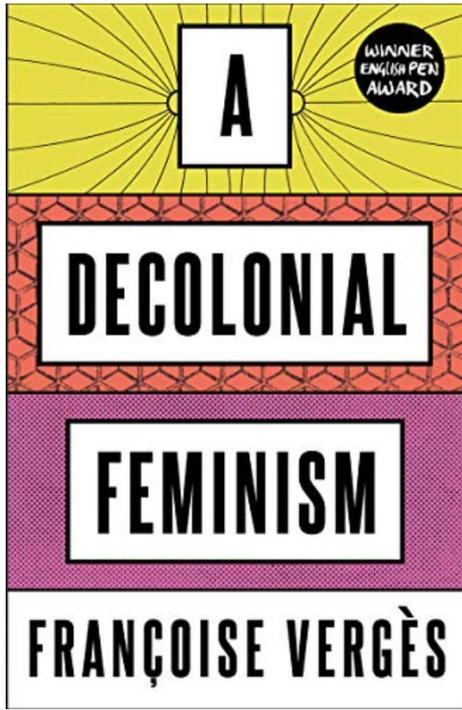
<https://bruneluniversity.zoom.us/j/92114472139>

Meeting ID: 921 1447 2139

Passcode: 1234567890

Reflection questions and prompts for the three 22-23 sessions:

- To what degree do critical feminist writers of colour and global south feminists working in the North have the ‘freedom’ and ‘safety’ to write about and through their lived ‘truths’?
- What does it mean to write through a critical feminist lens that captures the intersections, nuances and the complications of lived experiences?
- How does this writing challenge some of the power dynamics and mainstream feminist discourses?
- What emotional tolls do feminist scholars of colour and minoritised feminist scholars embody as part of their research and writing experiences?
- How can poetry be used to address feminist issues and silences by scholars of colour and minoritised feminist scholars?



A free extract from the preface

[A Decolonial Feminism: Vergès, Françoise + Free Delivery \(amazon.co.uk\)](#)

“Who cleans the world?” was where this book started, and it led to an examination of feminist struggles in the context of a violent and brutal counter-revolution. The question was triggered by a strike of the black and brown women who clean Gare du Nord train station in Paris. It was not the first strike of that kind, nor the first time that we saw the racialization and feminization of underpaid and undervalued cleaning and care work, or that the role of social reproduction in capitalism was discussed. Yet that strike generated a desire to look again at cleaning in the context of #MeToo, Black Lives Matter, the denunciation of police violence and femicides, massive feminist demonstrations and strikes especially in the Global South, but also in the context of feminist racism, imperialism, militaristic violence as a solution to social problems, and racial capitalism. Since then, the pandemic of Covid-19 has shown that the “production [...] of group-differentiated vulnerability to premature death” is a constant of racial capitalism. The pandemic has revealed deep inequalities and injustices in the access to health services, that the right to breathe is not a universal one, and the unsurprising yet enraging fact that the death rate has been higher among black, indigenous, brown and poor communities, communities that carry the weight of lost jobs and increased poverty while billionaires are becoming richer. The vocabulary of “war” has justified sending unprotected workers in “essential” jobs to the “frontline.” Finally, it has shown again that making the world safe and clean for a few rests on the exploitation and dispossession of many, that extractivism remains the logic of cultural and economic

Brunel Library access for book

If you have time, you can access your University library (hopefully) to view part of the book. Brunel weblink is as follows:

[ProQuest Ebook Central - Detail page](#)

Try to read the intro section (and Chapter 1 if time) ahead of the session.

Article link

Positionality and the dialectic of race and gender in British higher education: The issue with (mis) representation Amani Al-Serhan a,* , Joy Ogbemudia b (2022)

Keywords: Race Gender Higher education Decolonial feminism Intersectionality

Access: [Positionality and the dialectic of race and gender in British higher education: The issue with \(mis\) representation – ScienceDirect](#) (I can email you the pdf so just ask if any issues in accessing).



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Positionality and the dialectic of race and gender in British higher education: The issue with (mis) representation

Amani Al-Serhan ^a✉, Joy Ogbemudia ^b✉

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2022.102630>

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Abstract

Disappointed by countless academic resources and personal accounts that tend to situate women of colour as the racialised other, this article aims to critique Western representation of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) women and query the production of knowledge in British Higher Education (BHE). Engaging in self-conscious introspective narrative where our personal experiences are linked to the social, we situate this paper in duoethnographic research by linking our personal experiences to the broader social context of “Whiteness” found within British Higher Education. Using our lived experiences as an entry point, we analyse personal challenges of negotiating “Whiteness” within British Higher Education. Drawing from the notion of gender and cultural essentialism, we discuss how Western discourse typically presents Arab and other women of colour as culturally oppressed and lacking a sense of agency. We call attention to the need to embrace decolonial [feminism](#) (Lugones, 2010), where the coloniality of gender is addressed and intersectionality (Crenshaw, 1989) is appreciated as an analytical tool for the experiences of women.

Reflections, connections and questions raised through these 2 readings – article and book extract

- **How have the reading/s made you think about feminism differently, if at all?**
- **How might a decolonial feminist lens be helpful in your work/thinking?**
- **What questions has today's session raised for you?**

Thank you for attending today

26 May 2022

- On behalf of the Brunel **Education 'Interculturality for diversity and global learning'** Research Group, we encourage you to visit the website and keep up with our research activities and events.
- Full programme on the website: [Feminist reading group | Brunel University London](#)
- Part 2: Shall we continue with theme or would you like me to move to something different?
- Parts 2 & 3:
 - > Thursday 23rd February, 4-5.30pm. Theme TBC
 - > Thursday 25th May, 4-5.30pm. Theme TBC