

DEAN'S SEMINAR



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TO DECOLONIZE: Where to the Humanities?

The term and/or concept, 'decolonise', has renewed currency in the Humanities (that is, in the arts and social sciences). The hard sciences remain sceptical: a secure bridge, whether in the North or the South of the globe, must conform to the same principles and practices of civil engineering.

In the Humanities, to decolonise evokes the landmark book, *Decolonising the Mind* (1981), in which the author – the Kenyan and writer and academic Ngugi wa Thiong'o, argued in his essay, "The Quest for Relevance", that the literature syllabus at the university in Africa must prioritise not Western writers, but African writers (to simplify his argument, somewhat).

But even before Ngugi's intervention, 'to decolonise' had constituted the theme of the Bandung Conference (1955) at which so-called Third World countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America debated alternatives to the twin Western 'hegemonies' of Enlightenment capitalism and Marxist communism.

'To decolonise' has been revived in South Africa principally by #Fallist campaigns. The response of the DHET is to insist that institutions of higher learning "decolonise".

What might it mean to decolonise? What might be the consequences for research, teaching, learning and curriculum design?

Date: 14 September 2018

Time: 12h00 - 14h00

Venue: DUT City Campus,
Video Technology Lecture Room 2

Speaker: Professor Michael Chapman