

ABCs of Rhetorical Colonialism

Apocolypse

Apocalypse is a period of time where there is mass violence against one or many marginalized groups. Originally meaning “through the concealed in Greek”, the term has evolved less to reference the end of the world and rather seeing through to the violence.

Queer and trans people during the Trump Administration, had to endure the violent rhetoric and policies that have been perpetuated.



Borders

are boundaries that define separate geographical areas. Some borders are created through geographic features, such as the borders of the U.S. and Canada which are defined from heavily forested areas. Borderlands are a term that describes areas close to borders that are particularly contentious due to the high policing and militarization.

The U.S.-Mexico Border has shifting definitions of what its border has been and is, the U.S.-Canadian Border is divided by forest area, and parts of oceans are also contentious and ever changing, as there are also attempts to codify borders on water



Cultural Soveriengty

is the right of a group of people to maintain and control their culture.

The National Museum of the American Indian asserts Indigenous cultural sovereignty, but in order to do so that allows Native audiences to feel like it is representative of their history and allows non-Native audiences to understand the museum

Decolonization

is a historical process of becoming independent of the colonizer. When decolonization is used as a metaphor, it becomes an empty signifier that symbolizes the fantasy that liberation or social justice can happen easily, when in reality decolonization is a loud act. Even after decolonization, colonization legacies will still permeate.

The U.S.'s relinquishing the Philippines, yet the Philippines is still a neocolonial country, that has a dependency on the U.S., created by U.S. colonization.

English

is the dominant language used globally, yet is a product of Western-centered universalism.

At international conferences, English is one or one of the few official languages.

Frontier

is a barren land that is perceived to be without claim Its antonyms include “territory”, which constitutes that the land has been claimed. The word “frontier bears “the burden of a discourse grounded in genocide, ethnocide, and half a millennium of determined efforts to erase Indigenous peoples from the Americas” (Stucky and Murphy).

The United States, upon expansion, characterized the West as the American frontier. The idea of westward expansion on the American frontier is a part of American folklore. The exploration and forced settlement in the West resulted in the murder and displacement of Indigenous people who lived in the land.



Globalization

is the process of developing world wide integration. Globalization is the process of developing the world wide integration of aspects such as cultures or businesses. The term also has become a mask for the ways global capital has created inequality.

National Geographic magazine plays into the neocolonial discourse of globalization, as it showcases representations of the non-Western world for the West.

Hygiene

is the purity of a specific group of people through attempts of isolation. The desire for hygiene comes in relation to fears of contamination, through factors like disease or race.

In the 1900s, Cullion, Philippines became a “sanitary barrio”, an isolated area, that accumulated Filipino leper families. While getting treated with regular injections of chaulmoogra oil. The children of leper families without leprosy were taken and isolated from their families, and children with leprosy in non-leper families were put in the barrio.



Immigration

Immigration is the act of moving to a different country. It is different than settler colonialism because it does not attempt to erase and displace an already existing place. Immigration, especially in the U.S. is seen as a threat to national sovereignty through the idea that non-white groups.

In contemporary immigration, the media portrays undocumented immigrants as criminals and compares them to disease.



Justifications

are the excuses and reasoning behind creating a specific policy or treatment. These justifications are typically used to address why a violent, wrong, or immoral act has been committed.

British Columbia's justification for their mistreatment of Aboriginal people is because they are inferior and childlike.

Kinship

is the familial relationship between people. The term does not strictly refer to biologically related relationships. It also expands to people who have a similar social connection.

The Korean children who group up in white families have kinship units that are transnational and transracial. The transnational adoption industrial complex Korean adoptees can forge kinship through the experience of adoption.

Limited wars

are bred through neo-colonialism, and are the ways militaries control and maintain power of a smaller territory. It can only end in world war.

If Africa was united limited wars would not work because they would not be able to garner the same amount of control as they could if the continent was divided.

Malala effect

is a term coined by Nami Pillay, which describes the appropriation of Malala Yousafzai in the West. At 16 years old, Yousafzai was shot by the Taliban for attending school, and since she has become an advocate for women's rights and education. Her story has been used by the West, in its political landscape, and in media, to symbolize democratic maturation. Her story appeals to Western audiences, especially Western feminists and global moderates through the appeal of women's rights and children's futures. In the West, she is viewed as a Pakistani moderate in the country to fundamentalist Muslim women.



The Western media consistently utilizes Yousafzai's attempted murder by the Taliban to distract from the ways it has killed innocent civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan through NATO-led drone attacks. This emphasizes the Western notion that violence only goes one way.

Necropolitics of the promise

is a phrase that looks at the way US settler modernity through the lens of how debt imperialism, impacted by US militarism, allows for the U.S. and Western countries to continue diving into an infinite debt, whereas non-Western countries are expected to pay back their debts.

Enslaved people in indentured servitude must pay their enslavers to be freed.

Orientalism

Orientalism encompasses the way the Western, European, imagination constructs the East. It is the way the Orient, the Western world, views the Orient, the East in relation to Europe. the Pakistani scholar, Edward Said, explains that the perceptions of the East are created through selected interactions by Europeans that have been generalized and aestheticized into an imagination that distributed this geopolitical awareness into a lens. The idea of the Orient is not just a description of the East but is equally important in reifying European identity. The view of the Orient was created through biased interactions and transformed into a perceived aesthetic. The effects of Orientalism have created our understanding of Southwest Asia. The view of the Orient was created through biased interactions and transformed into a perceived aesthetic. The effects of Orientalism have created our understanding of Southwest Asia.



The movie *Aladdin* is a popular representation of Orientalism, through the ways it characterizes a fictional representation of the Middle East that is imbued with mysticism.

Pedagogy

are the teachings and practices inspired by specific subject(s), cultures, or disciplines.

Land as pedagogy is a way of life that prioritizes learning from and with the land.

Queer

is a term that describes a gender or sexuality expression outside of heterosexual and cisgender identities.

Queer and transgender people such as Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson have been important figures in helping shape identity and rights for members of the LGBTQ+ community in the United States, especially during the HIV/Aids crisis.



Rule of law

The rule of law began as the understanding that there was an understanding that the government had constitutional limitations, but now, amongst border control discourse, the rule of law has become synonymous with social order.

Operation Gatekeeper: 3 Years of Results said that they wanted to "restore the rule of law", which referred to border fencing and surveillance.



Settler Colonialism

is the act of removing and displacing Indigenous populations from their land. The land becomes what is most valuable, it becomes the location for their new home and is also used for capital. In turn, the land becomes prosperous, and human relations become restricted. It differs from regular colonialism through the intent of creating a new land.

The United States is an example of a settler colonial project through its forced removal of Indigenous peoples.

Trope

are specific themes used to stereotype different events or people. It is used primarily in the media.

The casino indian trope is a racialized trope given to Indigenous people, primarily in the United States, that takes Native people who own casinos and characterizes them as inferior to white people, exploitative of their culture, and as schemers.



Unceded

is a term to describe land that has illegally or informally been released.

Hawaii is unceded land.

Voice

is a signifier that inscribes language that inscribes language, and comes from a person's lived experience. The voice helps develop knowledge and personality into language. It is an interruption, it places the subject into bending time and space through its ability to change meanings and disrupt conformity. Voice provides cultural meanings.

In W.E.B. Du Bois's "My Country 'Tis of Thee", his voice is evident through his interpretation of the song from his own lived experience. The song resonated with Black Americans through its calls for racial equality"

White man's burden

is the notion that white people are in charge of civilizing native peoples. The term was coined and first featured in a poem of the same name published in 1899 by Rudyard Kipling about the Philippine-American War. the idea of "the white man's burden" is core in the clash between white Western societies and countries that they deem as an Other.



William Taft called Filipinos their "Little brown brother" during U.S. colonialism in the Philippines.

Xenophobia

The fear and dislike of people from other countries in one's home country.

Donald Trump's xenophobic remarks that characterize Muslims as terrorists.

Yellowface

is the imitation of Asian people, mainly East Asians, by non-Asians. This can include the act of act of wearing makeup to mimic Asian features. This is an offensive performance that originated as a way for Asians to be excluded from media.

Karl Lagerfeld's Paris-Shanghai: A Fantasy, which included a film series that characterized China and India as having emerging fashion markets. In the film, there were multiple white actors in yellowface, characterized as Chinese through stylized eyeliner and clothing.



Zones

are areas of land that are designated for a specific purpose. It is important to question how that land has been deemed as a zone. Governments can determine if lands are specific zones that can restrict access for the general public.

The Nevada Test Site is the most nuclear bombed place on Earth, and was deemed a national sacrifice zone by the United States. It was deemed as a place devoid of people, but in reality, there were 928 nuclear bombs exploded in what was deemed to be a barren land. The area had many Shoshone and Paiute people who had been forcibly relocated to reservations before it was used as a test site.

