

SOC495H1S: New Topics in Sociology: Migration and Settler Colonialism

Instructor: Yukiko Tanaka
Department of Sociology
University of Toronto
Winter 2021

Location and Time: Mondays 2:10–4:00 EST on Zoom (meeting info will be on Quercus)

Office Hours: By appointment

Email: yukiko.tanaka@mail.utoronto.ca

Statement of Acknowledgement: I wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land. [<https://indigenous.utoronto.ca/about/land-acknowledgement/>]

In the context of this course on migration and settler colonialism, I encourage students to critically reflect on what this statement of acknowledgement means to you in your social location. As we learn about historical and contemporary waves of migration to Canada, how have these new groups of arrivals buttressed or resisted colonial nation-building? How have Indigenous people also moved and experienced displacement from their homelands?

Read more about the University of Toronto's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada here: <https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/155/2018/05/Final-Report-TRC.pdf>

Course Description: Early European settlement in Canada was a key part of the colonial state's mission of seizing Indigenous land and resources. While today's migrants are mostly from non-European origins and often face social, economic, and political marginalization, they nonetheless live on stolen Indigenous land. Does that mean people of colour and migrants are settlers too? In this course, we will look at the emerging conversation between migration and settler colonial studies in Canada and beyond. We will examine the theoretical debate regarding the relationships between Indigenous people, white settlers, and racial "others" in Canada from the 19th century to the present. The course will include a critical analysis of the possibilities and limitations of political solidarity between migrants and Indigenous peoples. Topics will include settler colonialism in relation to Blackness, refugees, precarious migration, land and labour, and postcolonialism.

Restrictions: The prerequisite to take this course is 1.0 SOC FCE at the 300+ level. This program-restricted course is open only to sociology majors and specialists.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and evaluate arguments in the ongoing debate regarding the position of migrants and people of colour in relation to settler colonialism.
2. Understand the intertwined histories of Black, Indigenous, and migrant communities on Turtle Island and the possibilities and limitations of solidarity between them.
3. Articulate the importance of reflexivity in sociological research and critically locate themselves in the social structures of migration and settler colonialism.
4. Analyze and evaluate empirical and theoretical work on how migration and settler colonialism are inflected by race, land, labour, nationalism(s), and the state.

Evaluation Components

	Due	Weight
Discussion Board Posts	Mondays by 2pm	10%
Class Lead and Response Paper	Various	15%
Reflexivity Project	Feb 8	25%
Research Essay	March 22	25%
Take Home Final Assessment	April 19	25%

Discussion Board Posts – 10%

Each week, please make at least one post on the discussion board before class. These posts are meant to help you think critically about the readings and come to class prepared. These posts should be about 100-200 words and can be in the form of a question, a reply to a classmate's post, or simply some thoughts that came to you while reading. It does not need to be polished – the goal is to get you thinking and writing about the course materials.

Here are some questions to guide your thinking:

- What did you find most interesting in the readings?
- What did you have trouble understanding in the readings?
- What are lingering questions in your mind after completing the readings?
- Is there a news article, YouTube clip, podcast, or other media you can share that relates to the readings?
- Is there a concept you learned in different course that helped you better understand the readings?

Each post is worth 1% (pass/fail) up to a maximum of 10%. You may post multiple times per week, but you will only get credit for one post. To get credit for your post, you must submit before that week's class: Mondays at 2pm. You will not be able to get credit for late posts.

Class Lead and Response Paper – 15%

On the first day of class, you will sign up for one week to be a class leader. There will likely be two leaders each week, depending on the number of students enrolled. On your week, you will be responsible for leading the class in discussion. You should prepare some questions to ask the class.

After the discussion, you will prepare a response paper that 1) briefly summarizes the main points from the readings (this part should be 1 page max) and 2) summarizes and extends the discussion. This paper should go well beyond a simple summary of the discussion – you should write about your own reactions and thoughts on the questions raised by you and your classmates. You must include elements from all the readings for the week. It may also be helpful to link back to readings in previous weeks. This paper should be 3-4 double spaced pages in length and must be handed in no later than one week after the discussion. Although there may be two student leaders each week, these papers are to be written and submitted individually.

Reflexivity Project – 25%

Indigenous, Black, feminist, and other critical sociologists recognize that one's social location matters when it comes to the research questions we ask and how we conduct research. It is particularly important in research on/with communities that have historically been targets of unethical research without seeing any benefit to them. This project asks you to think critically about your social location in relation to migration and settler colonialism in one of two ways:

- 1) Write a 4-5 page essay (double spaced) analyzing your social location in the context of migration and settler colonialism. You may draw on course readings and other academic and non-academic sources.
- 2) Create a piece of art, poem, or other creative format to represent your social location in the context of migration and settler colonialism. If you choose this option, you must also submit a 2-page artist's statement (double spaced) explaining the meaning behind your project. The artist's statement should include citations to academic sources.

More details will be provided in class.

Research Essay – 25%

The research essay will be 5-6 double-spaced pages, drawing on course readings and other academic and non-academic sources. More details will be given in class.

Take Home Final Assessment – 25%

The take-home final will be cumulative, essay style questions. You will receive the questions on the last day of class and the exam will be due two weeks later.

Course Policies

Course Delivery: This course will be taught as a seminar, meaning that while I will be doing some lecturing, you should expect at least half of the time to be dedicated to discussion. This means that you need to come to class prepared by having done the readings and formed some critical thoughts on them.

Course Communication: The regular class meetings and Quercus discussion boards are opportunities to connect with myself and fellow students. Please treat all online communication with the same respect as you would in-person. You can expect replies to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. Please include the course code (SOC495) in the subject line and make sure to review this syllabus before asking questions to see if they are answered already.

Office Hours: I will not be holding regular office hours, but I encourage you to make an appointment with me if you would like to speak.

Online Etiquette: Please treat your fellow students and instructor with the utmost respect online. The classroom discussion, breakout rooms, emails, and any other place where you're communicating with the class should be a supportive and collegial environment to develop your thinking about migration and settler colonialism. Refer to the Community Agreement for more specific guidelines.

Accessibility: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> or email accessibility.services@utoronto.ca as soon as possible. For specific COVID-19 related accessibility concerns, please visit <https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/covid-19-updates>.

Policy on Deadlines and Late Assignments: Deadlines are meant to help keep you on track to submit each assignment with plenty of time to get feedback and work on your next assignment and to prevent you from getting overwhelmed with work toward the end of the course. They are not meant to cause you undue stress. Therefore, I will not be enforcing penalties on late work, but I encourage you to make every effort to submit assignments on time. Please email me to let me know if you will be submitting work past the deadline. There are some instances where I will not be able to accept late work due to deadlines set by the university, so you need to be in communication with me regarding this.

Absence Declaration: The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation. While I am not enforcing late penalties, I do ask you to use the Absence Declaration tool on ACORN found in the Profile and Settings menu to formally declare an absence from academic participation in the University. The tool is to be used if you require consideration for missed academic work based on the procedures specific to your faculty or campus. Similarly, if you have a personal or family crisis, while I do not require a letter from your college registrar, it is a good idea to get in touch with them anyway so you have institutional support. You will be notified by the University if this policy changes.

Grade Appeals: If you feel the grade you received on an assignment is not an accurate reflection of the work that you produced, you may appeal it through the following steps. Within two weeks of receiving your grade, you must submit (via email) a written explanation of why you believe there was a **substantive error** in grading. In your appeal, you must address all comments provided to you by the marker. Keep in mind that upon regrading, your mark may go up or down or stay the same.

Turnitin: Students agree that, by taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to *Turnitin.com* for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the *Turnitin.com* reference database solely for the purpose of

detecting plagiarism of those papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the *Turnitin.com* web site.

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %) unless students instead provide, along with their exams, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the exam they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to scholarship at the University of Toronto and beyond. Academic offenses include, but are not limited to, using someone else's ideas in a paper or exam without proper citations, submitting your own work for credit in multiple courses, obtaining assistance from others during exams (including having someone edit your work or looking at a classmate's work), and falsifying illness on the Absence Declaration tool. Please familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:

<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>

Writing Support: Each college has a writing centre with instructors who can assist you at various stages of writing projects. I highly recommend seeking help from your college writing centre for your reading responses. Find your writing centre here: <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/> Note that writing support is available through phone appointments through the COVID-19 crisis.

Class Schedule and Readings

All readings will be made available on Quercus. Every attempt will be made to follow this schedule, but it is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week 1: Introduction to Migration and Settler Colonialism (Jan 11)

This week serves as an introduction to the fields of migration and settler colonialism and the emerging conversation between the two. During this meeting we will also review the syllabus, create a Community Agreement, and sign up for class leaders.

Madokoro, Laura. 2019. "Peril and possibility: A contemplation of the current state of migration history and settler colonial studies in Canada." *History Compass* 17(1):e12515.

Recommended:

Phung, Malissa. 2011. "Are People of Colour Settlers Too?" Pp. 289-297 in *Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity*, ed. A. Mathur, J. Dewar, M. DeGagne. Ottawa, ON: Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Veracini, Lorenzo. 2011. "Introducing Settler Colonial Studies." *Settler Colonial Studies* 1(1):1-12.

Week 2: Decolonizing Anti-Racism (Jan 18)

The conversation sparked by Lawrence and Dua is foundational to the academic debate regarding the relationship between people of colour and Indigenous people. They center decolonization because anti-racist activism and scholarship has sometimes served to sideline Indigenous concerns. Sharma and Wright's response argues that this only serves to falsely conflate migration and colonialism and reinforce the power of nationalism.

Lawrence, Bonita and Enakshi Dua. 2005. "Decolonizing Antiracism." *Social Justice* 32(4):120–43.

Sharma, Nandita and Cynthia Wright. 2014. "Decolonizing Resistance, Challenging Colonial States." *Social Justice* 35(3):120–38.

Week 3: Are People of Colour Settlers? (Jan 25)

Continuing the conversation from last week, should we consider people of colour as settlers? Is this an accurate representation of how people of colour are positioned in relation to Indigenous nations and lands, despite their exclusion from whiteness? Chandrashekar's article applies Tuck and Yang's work to the author's own life and positionality. It will provide helpful inspiration as you work on your reflexivity essay.

Saranillio, Dean Itsuji. 2013. "Why Asian Settler Colonialism Matters: A Thought Piece on Critiques, Debates, and Indigenous Difference." *Settler Colonial Studies* 3(3–04):280–94.

Tuck, Eve and K.Wayne Yang. 2012. "Decolonization Is Not a Metaphor." *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society* 1(1):1–40.

Chandrashekar, Santhosh. 2018. "Not a Metaphor: Immigrant of Color Autoethnography as a Decolonial Move." *Cultural Studies - Critical Methodologies* 18(1):72–79.

Week 4: Black and Indigenous Intertwined Histories (Feb 1)

One of the more contentious claims from Lawrence and Dua is that even Black folks who are descended from enslaved people are settlers, despite having been brought to the Americas against their will and losing their connection to their homelands. This week we will read work from Black and Indigenous scholars that further interrogates this claim. How have Black and Indigenous disposessions been intertwined through history?

Smith, Andrea. 2014. "The Colonialism That is Settled and the Colonialism That Never Happened." *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*.

<https://decolonization.wordpress.com/2014/06/20/the-colonialism-that-is-settled-and-the-colonialism-that-never-happened/>

King, Tiffany. 2019. *The Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. **Introduction.**

Amadahy, Zainab, and Bonita Lawrence. 2009. "Indigenous Peoples and Black People in Canada: Settlers or Allies?" Pp. 105-136 in *Breaching the colonial contract*, ed. A. Kempf. Springer Netherlands.

Week 5: Migrant/Indigenous Encounters in the 19th Century (Feb 8)

While Canadian immigration policy excluded most non-European immigrants until the 1960s, there have been Chinese, Indian, and other racialized communities on Turtle Island since long before their formal (if not always substantive) inclusion into the Canadian nation. What can historical analysis of migrant and Indigenous relations in the 19th century tell us about how racialization and empire worked both then and now?

Mawani, Renisa. 2009. *Colonial Proximities: Crossracial Encounters and Juridical Truths in British Columbia, 1871-1921*. Vancouver: UBC Press. **Chapter 1.**

Bains, S. K., Mawani, R., Bhandar, D., & Dhamoon, R. (2019). *Unmooring the Komagata Maru: charting colonial trajectories*. Vancouver: UBC Press. **Chapter 12.**

****READING WEEK – NO CLASS (Feb 15)****

Week 6: Imagining the Nation (Feb 22)

Benedict Andersen calls nations “imagined communities”, where most members will never personally know or meet their kinsfolk but still recognize one another to be fellow citizens. How do Canadians define who is part of this imagined community? Who is physically present but symbolically excluded? Where are im/migrants and Indigenous people positioned in the national imaginary?

Mackey, Eva. 1999. *The House of Difference: Cultural Politics and National Identity in Canada*. New York: Routledge. **Chapter 3.**

Thobani, Sunera. 2007. *Exalted subjects: Studies in the making of race and nation in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. **Introduction.**

Week 7: Indigenous Sovereignty and Nationhood (Mar 1)

Sharma and Wright (2008) critique Indigenous sovereignty movements for dangerously reifying the nation-state. However, do Indigenous notions of sovereignty align with European colonial ones, or do they offer an alternative? How might Indigenous nations offer ways to think about living better with each other and the land?

Sharma, Nandita. 2020. *Home Rule: National Sovereignty and the Separation of Natives and Migrants*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. **Chapter 1.**

Coulthard, Glen. 2014. *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. **Chapter 2.**

Simpson, Leanne. 2013. "I Am Not A Nation-State." *Unsettling America: Decolonization in Theory and Practice*. <https://unsettlingamerica.wordpress.com/2013/11/06/i-am-not-a-nation-state/>

Week 8: Refugees and Precarious Migrants in Settler Colonial Space (Mar 8)

One way in which scholars attempt to make sense of the migrant/settler distinction is through the degree of voluntariness of migration. Refugees, then, are not settlers because they are forced to leave their home countries. Is this distinction analytically useful? Similarly, temporary migration is on the rise in Canada, so many migrants do not have the right to stay on the land permanently. What is the relationship of precarious legal status migrants to settler colonialism when they cannot "settle"?

Bhatia, Amar. 2013. "We Are All Here To Stay? Indigeneity, Migration, and 'Decolonizing' the Treaty Right to Be Here." *Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice* 31:39–64.

Fobear, Katherine. "Queer settlers: questioning settler colonialism in LGBT asylum processes in Canada." *Refuge*, vol. 30, no. 1, Fall 2014, p. 47

Recommended

Villegas, Paloma E., Breanna Barrie, Serriz Peña, Jilanch Alphonso, and Alveera Mamoon. 2019. "Integration, Settler Colonialism, and Precarious Legal Status Migrants in Canada." *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

Week 9: Labour on Indigenous Land (Mar 15)

Some scholars argue that migrants are valued for their labour power, which is harnessed to extract profit from Indigenous land, while their racialization ensures their exclusion from the nation. Iyko Day (2017) conceptualizes Asian migrants as "aliens", an exclusive and excludable labour force marked by racial otherness. King (2014) counters that labour does not help us understand Black

presence in settler colonial states. What are the uses, and limits, of seeing settler colonialism through a labour framework?

Day, Iyko. 2017. *Alien Capital: Asian Racialization and the Logic of Settler Colonialism*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. **Introduction.**

King, Tiffany. 2014. "Labor's Aphasia: Toward Antblackness as Constitutive to Settler Colonialism." *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*.
<https://decolonization.wordpress.com/2014/06/10/labors-aphasia-toward-antblackness-as-constitutive-to-settler-colonialism/>

Recommended:

Walia, Harsha. 2013. *Undoing Border Imperialism*. Chicago: AK Press. Intro & Chapter 1.

Week 10: Post-Colonial and Settler Colonial Encounters (Mar 22)

Frantz Fanon's work is foundational in postcolonial theory. However, Coulthard points out that there has never been a serious attempt to decolonize in Canada. How can postcolonial theory help us understand ongoing settler colonial violence? We return to Coulthard's book, which we began reading in Week 7, as an Indigenous take on Marxist and postcolonial theory.

Fanon, Frantz. 1952. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Press. Chapter 4.

Coulthard, Glen. 2014. *Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Chapters 1 & 5

Week 11: Settler Colonialism Beyond Turtle Island (Mar 29)

Settler colonialism is not restricted only to Turtle Island, but extends to Australia and New Zealand, Latin America, Palestine, and beyond. This week we will consider how settler colonialism takes unique shape in those contexts, and how migrants are recruited into those settler colonial projects.

Busbridge, Rachel. 2018. "Israel-Palestine and the Settler Colonial 'Turn': From Interpretation to Decolonization." *Theory, Culture & Society* 35(1): 91-115.

Higgins, Katie W. 2017. "Lifestyle migration and settler colonialism: The imaginative geographies of British migrants to Aotearoa New Zealand." *Population, Space, Place* 24: e2112.

Week 12: For a Better Future: Solidarities between Indigenous People, Black Folks, and Migrants (April 5)

Tuck and Yang (2012) called for an ethic of incommensurability: to strive toward decolonization unconditionally without further investments in settler futures. What might Indigenous, Black, and migrant futures look like? How can we support each other as we all move toward freedom?

Simpson, Leanne Betasamosake, Rinaldo Walcott, and Glen Coulthard. 2018. "Idle No More and Black Lives Matter: An Exchange." *Studies in Social Justice* 12(1): 75-89.

Miranda, Farah-Marie. 2015. "Antiblackness and Undoing the Territory of Migrant Justice." *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education, and Society*.
<https://decolonization.wordpress.com/2015/12/02/antiblackness-and-undoing-the-territory-of-migrant-justice/>

Recommended:

The Henceforward Podcast, episode 13: A conversation between Eve Tuck and Rinaldo Walcott.
<http://www.thehenceforward.com/episodes/2017/5/17/episode-13-a-conversation-between-dr-eve-tuck-dr-rinaldo-walcott>