



Archives of the future Italy, the postcolonial, and the time to come

University of Padua, Italy

18-20 February 2015

new deadline for submission of proposals: 2 November 2014

Archives of the Future invites scholars in the human and social sciences to investigate the role and the potential of postcolonial critical theories and practices in/for the Italian context. The main aim of the conference is to sound the impact of the postcolonial paradigm on forms, modes and contents of the Italian academic and cultural tradition, and to promote new critical perspectives that, by making visible the country's (post)colonial legacy, may produce an understanding of the workings of the present as it interrogates its (lack of) future.

The *postcolonialitalia* research project from which this conference stems (www.postcolonialitalia.it) investigates the tension between the normative power of the archive and the possibility to renew its contents, in the attempt to unhinge a longstanding academic tradition of defensive protection of disciplinary borders, which forecloses the possibility of confronting and sharing criteria of inquiry and meaning-production across different fields of study and branches of learning.

The conference also aims to inflect the postcolonial paradigm through a perspectival angle which we refer to as the 'European South': a provocative theoretical location, rather than an identifiable geopolitical region, connected to the notion of the 'global South' that has become a shorthand for the postcolonial peoples of the contemporary world. From this angle it tries to bring to light the new faces of a country 'in transit', and to offer new readings of its canons and archives, of the 'locations' of Italian culture.

We encourage the submission of paper proposals addressing the following critical and thematic clusters:

postcolonial genealogies:

- the reception of the postcolonial in Italy: appropriations, amnesias, elaborations . . .
- areas of interventions privileged by Italian scholars who use a postcolonial critical framework when dealing with Italian literature, arts, culture, politics, education and society
- forms and aims of postcolonial criticism in Italy: is there an Italian way of 'doing' the postcolonial?
- dialogues and overlaps: intercultural and migration studies
- the contributions of Italian scholars, artists and intellectuals to the global panorama of postcolonial theory and studies

old archives, new archives:

- rereading/rewriting Italian history and culture
- new representations of the country: what languages are used to register the cultural 'transits' of the present? literature, cinema, theatre, music, the visual arts . . .
- other cultural cartographies: making, unmaking, evading the archives
- the Mediterranean, a transnational fluid archive

postcolonial (in)sights:

- new subjectivities and the notion of 'italianità': belonging, citizenship, rights, religions
- communities in translation
- racisms, internal colonization, diversity, marginality
- gender asymmetries and conflicts
- Italy through borders and passages: transits and migrations
- postcolonial spaces and places
- a postcolonial 'Mezzogiorno'?
- speaking from the South, speaking of the South/s
- tomorrows, futures, utopias

Abstracts of 300 words and a short bio should be sent to archives@postcolonialitalia.it by **2 November 2014**. Acceptance of proposals will be notified at the end of November.