



Decolonising Western Law

**Kent Law School
University of Kent
23 June 2015
Venue: Keynes SR13
15.00 to 18.00 pm**

3.00-3.05: Welcome and introductions.

3.05-4.15: Session One:

- Pier Giuseppe Monateri (Turin) *Black Gains Strikes Back*
- Riccardo Baldissoni (Kent) Response (*From Black Gains to Yellow Aquinas*)

4.15-4.30: Afternoon tea

4.30-5.30: Session Two:

- Peter Fitzpatrick (Birkbeck) *'Hidden empires': decolonizing international human rights.*
- Jose Manuel Baretto (Bonn) *Everything you Wanted to Know about how to Decolonise Law*

5.30-6.00: Roundtable discussion

Clio: A Law and History Research Group
Kent Law School
Centre for Critical Thought

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Abstracts

Everything you Wanted to Know about how to Decolonise Law

Dr Jose Manuel Barreto (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn)

This presentation considers some methods of interpretation that can advance the project of decolonising legal theory, particularly the discourse of human rights. These hermeneutical strategies include the re-contextualisation of human rights theory in the historical horizon of modernity/coloniality; the elaboration of alternative geographies followed by the provincialisation of human rights; the critique of the parochialism of Western legal theory and the construction of a cosmopolitan jurisprudence; a rewriting of the history of rights, and the epistemologies of the South. It ends by thematising the idea that decolonising law can be advanced by a dialectics that includes unveiling the Eurocentric character of modern law, retrieving Non-eurocentric traditions, and furthering critical and intercultural dialogue between the two.