



# Inhabiting academic whiteness?

whiteness, the Academy and its (Neo)Liberal suicide

Conférence de Dr Shona Hunter, Leeds Beckett University

How whiteness is established [and amassed] through a range of normalised and normalising academic practices, including through the establishment of critical and progressive academic projects which ostensibly work to expose whiteness as 'bad'. This normalising works via forms of competitive, individualising relationality which bring people together around the desire to be (the) good, to be the one to do good, to know the good, to decide the good, to execute and control the good. This sort of acquisitive possessive colonising orientation to the good is foundational to the

oppressive [global] coloniality of (neo)liberalised higher education, it is the principal way in which it establishes whiteness as a form of governmental omnipotence and belonging. This acquisitive and possessive colonising orientation is also a self-contradictory and self-destructive process internal to the contemporary higher education. From within such an internally contradictory institutional context, how can we live different relationalities which challenge this massification of whiteness within the higher education project?

Dr Shona Hunter is a writer, researcher and educator on power, privilege, oppression, currently Reader in the Centre for Race Education and Decoloniality at Leeds Beckett University UK. She has published works on race, racialisation and whiteness and its lived, material and affective dynamics with a particular interest in the way these dynamics are constitutive of (neo)liberal state practices as these relate to the production of global colonial whiteness. Her works include for instance, her 2015 book *Power, Politics and the Emotions: Impossible Governance*; her *WhiteSpaces* work, now in its 13th year, across academic/public locations, bringing together academics and activists who have an interest in thinking critically about the meaning of whiteness in our current global coloniality. In 2021 she coedited the Routledge International Handbook of Critical Studies of Whiteness.

**Jeudi 29 septembre 2022  
de 17h00 à 18h30**

**Université de Lausanne  
Bâtiment Geopolis, salle 5899**

**Information : [gaspard.rey@unil.ch](mailto:gaspard.rey@unil.ch)**

*Unil*

UNIL | Université de Lausanne

CEG - Centre en Etudes  
Genre