

**30th Annual HumanDHS Conference
and the Twelfth Workshop on Transforming Humiliation and Violent Conflict
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City
December 7 -8, 2017
Theme: The Nature of Dignity and the Dignity of Nature**

**Conference Proposal
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Imperial Dispossession of 'Others' by Falsification of Dignity

A close study of colonial and postcolonial exploits, existence of military bases and interventions in different regions of the world and 'cooperation agreements' reveals patterns of economic design and investment practices of imperial powers. This presentation seeks to focus on the falsification of the dignity of 'Others' as a means of enhancing imperialist policies of global domination for cheap natural resources. On the basis of colonial and postcolonial theories, I argue that the imperial dispossession of others is sustained in the process by the portrayal of 'Others' as incomplete or imperfect rather than as humans of different 'races' and 'cultures.' I will make the claim, in agreement with Nicholas Thomas (1994, p. 71), that the underlying epistemic operation of partitioning the human species by situating some "just above apes, and others as immature civilizations" is not only humiliating, but enhances the dispossession of 'Others.' This presentation will conclude that for the dignity of nature, we must work for a worldview that imagines a global world made up of only humans in the plurality of different 'races' and 'cultures'.