

Writer in Residence Seminar
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The themes on which I've recently written and those on which I'm currently writing pertain directly to the contemporary student movement's call for decolonization of universities, systems of knowledge, and the means by which they are communicated and learned. By way of content, such considerations involve thinking through thought from the Global South not simply as a geopolitical or geo-epistemic concern but also through addressing the anxieties of intersubjective engagement with ideas and their purveyors once thought non-existent at best and illicit at worst. A recent exemplar is my study *What Fanon Said: A Philosophical Introduction to His Life and Thought* and earlier ones ranged from *Existential Africana* to *An Introduction to Africana Philosophy*. In the works are writings addressing what I've called shifting the geography of reason and also a turn beyond the decolonization of knowledge to that of norms. It is with those considerations that the course of seminar conversations and readings will issue forth through a series of "what is..." type questions.

- Seminar 1 What Fanon said and why is his thought relevant today?**
Texts: L. Gordon, *What Fanon Said: A Philosophical Introduction to His Life and Thought* and F. Fanon's *Black Skin, White Masks, A Dying Colonialism*, and *The Wretched of the Earth*. (If you have the French editions of Fanon's books, that'll be best.) Or: <http://lewisrgordon.com/selected-articles/biko-du-bois-fanon-sartre/>
Wednesday 18 May 1500-1700 GOR G04 in 43 Gordon Square
- Seminar 2 **What are Black Existentialism and the critique it offers to notions of optimism and pessimism?**
Texts: <http://lewisrgordon.com/selected-articles/existentialism-phenomenolo/>
Thursday 19 May 1800-2000 RUS 102 in Russell Square
- Focus on the Funk conference:
<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/bih/events/bbk-local?uid=19020e838c5941ada7a121a708e0d196>
- Seminar 3 **What are the decolonization of knowledge, disciplinary decadence, teleological suspensions of disciplinarity, and the creolization of theory?**
Texts: <http://lewisrgordon.com/selected-articles/existentialism-phenomenolo/gordon-essentialist-and.pdf>; <http://quaderna.org/disciplining-as-a-human-science/>; J.A. Gordon, 'Creolising Political Identity and Social Scientific Method' (handout); and you could also read L. Gordon, *Disciplinary Decadence*
Tuesday 24 May 1500-1700 RUS102 in 28 Russell Square
- Seminar 4 **What does it mean to decolonize normative life, especially when justice is not enough?**
Texts: Julia Suárez-Krabbe, *Race, Rights, Rebels* and L. Gordon, "When Justice Is Not Enough" (handout) and <http://lewisrgordon.com/selected-articles/social-political-thought/>
NEW DATE: Tuesday, 31st of May, at 1800 in room 103 at 28 Russell Square
- Seminar 5 Student presentations
NEW DATE: Wednesday, 1st of June, at 1800 in room 102 at 28 Russell Square

There will be various events across London during my visit. Paget Henry, Gayatri Spivak, Julia Suárez-Krabbe, and others will join us. It'll be great to catch them if you can. Here are some:

19–20th of May, Kanthropology, at Kingston University, [Penrhyn Road Campus](#), London, UK: <http://www.kanthropology.com/>

20–21st of May, Focus on the Funk, in Room B33 and B34 – Birkbeck, University of London Malet St, London WC1E 7HX, United Kingdom:
<http://criticallegalthinking.com/2016/03/04/focus-funk-journeys/>

27th of May, Faith, Philosophy, and Social Justice, at Christ College London, Woolwich - 12-14 Wellington Street, London, SE18 6PE, United Kingdom:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-philosophy-and-social-justice-tickets-25081724112?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTAwOTAxNTUvbGV3aXNyZ29yZG9uQGdtYWlsLmNvbS8w&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm_term=eventpage

2nd June, Seminar on *What Fanon Said*, 1:30- 3:30pm, Deptford Town Hall room 109, Goldsmiths:
<https://centrepostcolonialstudies.org/up-coming-events/>

3rd of June at 6pm, Khalili Lecture Theatre (KLT) at SOAS in the Main Building, conversation on “decolonization”