



**Postcolonial Anxieties and the
(Un)making of Postcolonial Theory**

Overview
Visiting Scholars
Local Participants
Sponsors
Schedule

A Symposium
October 13 & 14, 2000

[Back to Homepage](#)



This two-day symposium, entitled "Postcolonial Anxieties and the Unmaking of Postcolonial Theory," will investigate the institutional limitations of and real world possibilities for postcolonial studies. The goals of the Symposium include promoting an awareness of postcolonial studies and the people and cultures it examines both at CU and in the larger community, providing an interdisciplinary forum for a discussion of postcolonial theory and practice, bringing key scholars in the field to campus to work with faculty and students, and building a community of postcolonial scholars at CU that may facilitate curricular change within units, thus allowing for a deeper institutional commitment to postcolonial studies as well as an impetus for political awareness and change. We will bring to campus three distinguished scholars: Timothy Brennan (Minnesota), a key figure in the study of third-world intellectuals and the question of cosmopolitanism; Jacqui Alexander (Connecticut), a major theorist of gender, race, and sexuality in the postcolonial context; Abioseh Porter (Drexel), a scholar from Sierra Leone known for his examination of war, colonialism and African literature. We will also bring one in-house scholar, Dipankar Chakravarty, from the Business school who will focus on the effects of multinationalism, postcolonialism and international marketing strategies.

Among the questions to be taken up are:

- How implicated is the academy in creating a specific, essential notion of postcoloniality as a way of disempowering a historicist, material understanding of colonialism?
- Has postcolonial studies been able to gain some sort of access in the academy under the banner of a *à la carte* multiculturalism and a study of *à la carte* difference? If so, how does this framework contribute to the dominant mode of thinking about the inclusion of postcolonial studies into departments?
- How does postcolonial theory deny, contest, negotiate or corrupt itself, or, alternatively, how does it enable and challenge received, assimilated, or contained ways of thinking about postcoloniality?

Each of our guests will deliver a half-hour position paper on Friday afternoon to begin the work of the Symposium. Since they represent differing, even conflicting views of postcolonial theory, this should provide a lively introduction to our discussion. On Saturday, we will then host four roundtable discussions that will bring together our guests with CU faculty and students. Each roundtable will take up a key question, theoretical position, or text engaged by the Friday talks; this will enable us to move beyond the lecture format to a dialogue between our speakers as well as members of the university community, including the audience. Together

with informal discussions at a reception and at meals, these events will provide us with the means both to further the scholarly discussion of postcolonial theory and to raise the issue of the place of postcolonial studies at CU.

[Home](#)



M. Jacqui Alexander, Professor, Fuller-Maathai
Associate Professor of Gender and Women's
Studies, Connecticut College

Timothy Brennan, Assistant Professor, Department
of English and Cultural Studies, University of
Minnesota

Dipankar Chakravarti, Professor, Marketing,
University of Colorado-Boulder

Abioseh M. Porter, Associate Professor, Humanities,
Drexel University

[Back Home](#)



We would like to thank the following units for their continued support for this event:

Center for Humanities and the Arts'

Comparative Literature and Humanities

English

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Center for Asian Studies

[Back Home](#)



Schedule: "Postcolonial Anxieties and the (Un)making of Postcolonial Theory"

Friday, October 13, 2000:

3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Keynotes:

Jacqui Alexander

Tim Brennan

Dipankar Chakravarti

Abioseh Porter

Saturday, October 14, 2000:

9:00 Ð 10:15: *Dipankar Chakravarti*

Roundtable Participants: Mick Khoo, Shoba Rajgopal,

10:30 Ð 11:45: *M. Jacqui Alexander*

Roundtable Participants: Ernesto Acevedo-Muñoz, Zala Volcic, Linda White, Tracy Ferrell

Lunch on your own

1:30 Ð 2: 45: *Abioseh Porter*

Roundtable Participants: Jim Schechter, Adélèke Adéèko, Priya Jha, Jim Walker

3:00 Ð 4:15: *Tim Brennan*

Roundtable Participants: Haiping Yan, Max Friedman, Michael du Plessis, Tracy Ferrell

For further information, please contact [Priya Jha](#) at (303) 492-8503 or [Jeffrey Cox](#) at (303) 492-1931

[Back Home](#)