

TAKE ACTION GUIDE

RESISTING SETTLER COLONIALISM

NYU Review of Law and Social Change
2022 Colloquium

PANEL 1: WHAT IS SETTLER COLONIALISM?

Panelists: Noura Erakat, Rutgers University; Avigail Aviles, Undocu Mami Mutual Aid & Queens Neighborhoods United; Erika Pinheiro, Al Otro Lado; Reggan de loggans, Indigenous Kinship Collective

Moderator: Natsu Taylor Saito, Georgia State University College of Law

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

Erica Violet Lee discusses the reality of living under settler colonialism in North America in her presentation "Our Bodies and Lands are not Your Property," from REDx Talks, an indigenous speaker series.

Jacqueline Keeler's keynote, America is Still a Colony and the Reemergence of Native Nations, talks about the fight against the Dakota Access pipeline in Standing Rock and the military occupation of Native Nations.

In What is Settler Colonialism? Maya Mikdashi investigates what settler colonialism is and what its consequences are through her own experiences.

U.S. Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and the Racially Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 by Monika Batra Kashya contextualizes the racially disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 in the U.S. within a framework of settler colonialism.

Past is Present: Settler Colonialism in Palestine by Omar Jabary Salamanca, Mezna Qato, Kareem Rabie, and Sobhi Samour discusses the importance of a settler colonial analysis within Palestine studies.

Placemaking as Unmaking: Settler Colonialism, Gentrification, and the Myth of "Revitalized" Urban Spaces by Robyn Burns and Lisbeth A. Berbary studies a street in Ontario to examine gentrification and placemaking and its connection to the historical and pervasive violence of settler colonialism.

Land of Opportunity: Anti-Black and Settler Logics in the Gentrification of Detroit by Jessi Quizar explores the relationship between gentrification and settler colonialism in the context of the gentrification and displacement of Black communities in Detroit, Michigan.

A Brief Overview of the American Indian Movement (AIM) with Nick Estes is an episode of the Red Nation Podcast that talks through the history and legacy of the American Indian Movement, including the history of indigenous resistance in America.

Decolonize Palestine's Myth Database, which debunks common myths related to the Palestine question, particularly its entry on the myth that Zionism is not Colonialism, Just Jewish Self Determination.

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FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES CONT.

Decolonization 101 Zine has been created through collaboration to “open a door for you –not to feel guilty or frustrated, but to feel responsible and committed to decolonization.”

Migration as Decolonization by E. Tendayi Achiume looks to the history and legacy of the European colonial project to challenge the prevailing doctrine of state sovereignty under international law and its exclusionary nature.

Empire of Borders by Todd Miller traces the rise of the U.S. border regime and the ways in which it threatens fundamental freedoms and allows for America’s security concerns to infringe upon the sovereign rights of other nations.

Ann Deslandes examines how settler colonialism influences current immigration policy in her article, How colonialism shapes immigration policy in the US and Australia.

In her work Settler Colonialism, Race, and the Law, Natsu Taylor Saito provides an analysis of structural racism at the intersection of law and colonialism, highlighting the importance of acknowledging and contesting the continued colonization of Indigenous peoples and lands in order to effectively dismantle structural racism in America.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer for Right to the City in New York City or at a member organization near you.

Join a BDS Campaign or boycott companies that play a clear and direct role in the Israeli occupation, such as these corporations listed by the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC).

SUPPORT THE WORK

Support Red Nation, an anti-capitalist Native liberation movement.

Donate to the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights to support their work to end U.S. complicity in injustices perpetrated against Palestinians.

Make a gift to Refugee And Immigrant Center for Educational and Legal Services to support their fight for migrant justice.

Donate to CAAAY Organizing Asian Communities to support their rezoning campaign aimed at combating the rapid gentrification of Chinatown.

PANEL 2: LANDLESSNESS, DISPLACEMENT & MIGRATION

Panelists: Haddy Gassama, UndocuBlack Network; Morning Star Gali, Restoring Justice for Indigenous Peoples; Katherine Perez, National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities; Yves Tong Nguyen, Red Canary Song

Moderator: Azadeh Shahsahani, Project South

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

Moderator Azadeh Shahsahani, Project South, presents [this argument](#) for a reinvigorated anti-war movement and a movement towards internationalism [here](#). This is especially pertinent given the U.S.'s most recent [meddling and militarism](#) resulting in the destabilization of Central America. Shahsahani also discusses [India's colonial occupation](#) mirroring Israel's occupation.

The impact of settler colonialism and capitalism has resulted in the destruction of Indigenous communities through construction of pipelines, [most recently Line 3](#) which has started roadway destruction crossings on June 1, 2021. Also check out a [Decision Support Analysis of Line 5 Crude Oil Pipeline Within the GLIFWC Ceded Territories and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest](#) by Esteban Chiriboga discussing the impact of Line 5 to inform a Forest Service decision on the potential renewal of a special use authorization for the portion of Line 5 that crosses the Chequamegon-Nicolet-Nicolet National Forest.

The Uprooted Project has compiled a toolkit discussing gentrifying and displacement. First they [explain](#) what it means to gentrify a community and the various types of displacement that results. Then they discuss [resources and tools](#) residents can use to combat gentrification/displacement to preserve safety and community.

In [Gentrification and Displacement: Impact](#), displacement has become a civil rights issue, residents discuss the effects of displacement in Long Beach and Santa Ana where people of color are disproportionately affected.

In [Disability in Displacement](#), Aleema Shivji [posits](#) people with disabilities face many additional difficulties before, during and after displacement but provision of appropriate assistance and protection for all is feasible. Additionally, [this paper](#) identifies four key points to improve disability-inclusive approaches to disaster displacement.

Prepared in May-July 2021, [this publication](#) is designed to inform the executive order requested by President Biden in Section 6 (Climate Change and Migration) of Executive Order 14013 (February 4, 2021) on "Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration." Also see International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) [report](#) highlighting opportunities for the U.S. government to address climate displacement, identifying and advocating for pathways to safety for climate-displaced people based on existing legal tools and opportunities for developing new pathways.

PANEL 2: LANDLESSNESS, DISPLACEMENT & MIGRATION

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES CONT.

Moderated by U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) Director Tom K. Wong, [this panel](#) discusses how best to advocate for climate displaced persons.

Citizen shift for Dominican-Haitians leave them stateless. The Dominican Republic [deported](#) an estimated 70,000 to 80,000 people of Haitian descent over three years. Those left behind live in a state of institutionalized terror. Learn more from [this](#) on the ground interview by PBS. On the US side, as Haiti is still recovering from the deadliest earthquake and deadliest natural disaster of 2021, many displaced Haitians came to the US seeking refuge. In response, the US [has deported](#) many of the 10,000 migrants (most of them being Haitian) currently held in ICE detention.

GET INVOLVED

Become a member of the National Coalition of Latinx with Disability (CNLD) familia through this [membership form](#).

Get involved in the campaigns UndocuBlack Network are currently supporting: sign the [petition](#) to demand DHS stop deportations; sign [this petition](#) to help build a new immigration system that is fair, humane, and functional.

RJIP is seeking to collaborate with individuals from within and outside of California tribal communities in the creation and protection of a better future. Support RJIP by donating your time through workshops, direct actions and rallies, and more. Sign up [here](#) for more information.

[Join](#) Black Alliance for Just Immigration in demanding that Members of Congress show up for Black asylum seekers and demand an end to the racist deportations of Haitians and other Black asylum seekers.

SUPPORT THE WORK

[Sign the petition](#) asking Attorney General Ellison & Gov. Walz: Drop the Charges Against Water Protectors fighting against Line 3. Sign this [Statement of Opposition](#) to Line 3. For more opportunities to support the work see [here](#). [Donate](#) directly to the frontlines. Additionally, if your bank is listed among the [64 banks](#) backing DAPL and Tar Sands pipeline expansions, find an alternative and move your money. Then, get your [community to divest](#).

Stand with Black undocumented communities by donating to UndocuBlack Network [here](#).

Donate to RJIP [here](#) to support their numerous programs that are reclaiming and transforming narratives about Indigenous people that are part of the strategy to heal, inspire, and educate.

PANEL 3: RECLAIMING DECOLONIAL SOVEREIGNTY

Panelists: Radhika Sainath, Palestine Legal; Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, University of Hawai'i Manoa; Boris Santos, East New York Community Land Trust; Corinna Gould, Sogorea Te' Land Trust; Marie Cruz Soto, NYU Gallatin School

Moderator: Nadia Ben-Youssef, Center for Constitutional Rights

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

Learn more about [East New York Community Land Trust](#) on their website and through their educational videos like "[What is a Community Land Trust.](#)" The East New York Community Land Trust has collected [news coverage](#) of their work and the work of other community land initiatives.

The [New York City Community Land Initiative](#) put together [this memo](#) making the "case for abolishing NYC's tax lien sale an integral part of the community land trust conversation. Their [resources page](#) includes reading on community land trusts, answers to frequently asked questions, a technical manual, and studies of existing CLTs.

The NYC Racial Justice Commission put together [An interim report from the Racial Justice Commission Staff](#), which focuses on inequities in what social "burdens" different neighborhoods are made to take on and how those burdens fall on racial lines. The report finds that racial equity is not considered in New York City's land use decisions. The report studies how white communities in New York are often greener, less susceptible to threats from a changing climate, and how underinvestment and divestment from communities leads to unequal opportunities for residents.

In the 2021 book [Remembering Our Intimacies: Mo'olelo, Aloha 'Āina, and Ea](#), Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio researches, translates, and analyzes Native Hawaiian ethics and concepts of body, belonging, and connection to the land as they intersect with Indigenous queer theory and feminisms. Professor Osorio's talk, "[Hi'iakaikapoliopole & Loving Like 'Āina](#)," addresses these topics and the connection that our love for one another has to the land itself. Find her blog [here](#).

Radhika Sainath writes about the "[Right to Boycott](#)" as seen in the Boycott, Divest, Sanction movement in the fight against Israeli-occupation of Palestinian land. The article focuses on how laws in the US have developed to discourage such boycotts and what that means for First Amendment rights. Find more webinars on these topics and more at the [Palestine Legal](#) website.

The Sogorea Te' Land Trust, a group "led by urban indigenous women", lays out their vision for an Indigenous women-led land trust and how their work builds towards the "return of Indigenous land to Indigenous people." The Land Trust has also created an interactive and reflective Resource Guide for returning indigenous land and for Indigenous Solidarity Funding Projects: Honor Taxes & Real Rent Policies. The funding project resource guide provides direction and knowledge to non-Native groups and individuals looking to move resources towards Indigenous Peoples' solidarity projects.

PANEL 3: RECLAIMING DECOLONIAL SOVEREIGNTY

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES CONT.

Read more about discrete issues of climate, conservation, economics, education, energy, water, agriculture, health, indigenous lifeways, and waste management that the Women's Earth Alliance works on and how those intersect in the preservation work they do.

Corinna Gould and the Sacred Land Film Project created this animated video, "My Ancestors' Home", which documents the changing landscape of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan and outlines the vision for the return of this land to Indigenous people.

In the 2021 "Rights of Nature and Land Back: Indigenous Movements for Protecting Mother Earth," Corrina Gould presents on "How to be a good guest on Indigenous Land".

GET INVOLVED

Start with the "How to Come Correct" guide from the Sorogea Te' Land Trust.

Engage with and share the "Questions About 'Home'" reflection resource from the Sorogea Te' Land Trust; this is a resource for non-Native people to navigate their role in colonization and decolonization.

Read about starting conversations about settler colonialism with non-Native family and friends.

Track legislation and get statistical information about legislation silencing advocacy for Palestinians using the interactive map.

Take Action with the New York City Community Land Initiative.

Become an East New York Land Trust team member.

SUPPORT THE WORK

Donate to Palestine Legal.

Donate to Sorogea Te' Land Trust.

Support the Lisjan Territory rematriation fund and follow the work of the campaign Calculate your recommended annual land tax, a voluntary annual contribution that non-indigenous people living on Lisjan Ohlone land make to support the work of the Land Trust.

Donate to Women's Earth Alliance.

Locate and pay reparations using Soul Fire Farm's reparations map.

PANEL 4: RESISTING SETTLER COLONIALISM IN OCCUPIED LENAPEHOKING (NEW YORK CITY)

Panelists: John Kallas, *Within Our Lifetime*; Amin Husain and Crystal Hans, *Decolonize this Place*; Vanessa Thill, *Art Against Displacement*; Samantha Bernardine and Tricia Olayinka Ben-Davies, Flatbush African Burial Ground Coalition

Moderator: Jason Williamson, NYU Center on Race & Inequality

FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

[Decolonization is Not a Metaphor](#) examines the limits to which using the phrase “decolonization” without adequate understanding of the term/adequate use of the practice can end up reinforcing settler colonialism. It provides readers with an analysis of attempts to “decolonize” that are based on settler guilt/complicity, and then provides them with examples of transnational decolonization practices that allow for more meaningful alliances between indigenous peoples and those wishing to participate in decolonization.

[Unsettling settler colonialism: The discourse and politics of settlers, and solidarity with Indigenous nations](#) A conversation on the importance of centering Indigenous voices within discussions of settler colonialism/solidarity as to not replicate settler-colonial practices

[Re-envisioning resurgence: Indigenous pathways to decolonization and sustainable self-determination](#) Explores Indigenous pathways to decolonization with a focus on identifying everyday practices of “renewal and responsibility” within indigenous communities.

[Indigenous People's Day 2021 AMNH Actions Zine](#)

[Globalize the Intifada Zine](#) This document contains ten years of movement work in NYC, connected to the work against decolonization globally. It contains practices and lessons of anti-capitalist, decolonial, abolitionist, and anti-imperialist thought from various people involved in the movement.

[Decolonial Operations Manual](#) A toolkit of study and reflection gathered through five years of organizing in New York City by DTP in collaboration with dozens of groups.

[Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples](#) Book on decolonizing imperial Western knowledge.

[Decolonization and the pedagogy of solidarity](#) Article that examines three modes for being in solidarity with Indigenous peoples that are committed to decolonization.

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FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES CONT.

Freedom is a Constant Struggle Angela Davis's collection of essays on the connection between struggles against state violence and oppression from the Black freedom movement to the South African antiapartheid movement.

Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper is about how Canada dispossesses Indigenous communities of their land and what these communities are doing to get it back.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer with the American Indian Community House

Volunteer with Within our Lifetime

Check out the Flatbush African Burial Ground Coalition's website to learn more and sign up for their newsletter

Volunteer with the North Bronx Collective (Instagram @northbxcollective; Facebook)

Support land acknowledgment and land reclamation efforts, like a house in the West Village being returned to the Lenape (Why land acknowledgment?)

SUPPORT THE WORK

Donate to American Indian Community House to support their mission of improving the well-being of the indigenous community in the NYC area

Donate to Decolonize This Place

Donate to Within our Lifetime

Donate to the Kinship Collective Mutual Aid Fund

Donate to the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund

Donate to the Lenape Center, a nonprofit organization fiscally sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts. Since 2009, the Lenape Center based in Manhattan and led by Lenape elders has created programs, exhibitions, workshops, performances, symposia, land acknowledgment, and ceremonies to continue our Lenape presence. The Lenape Center is working toward creating a cultural center.