AN INTRODUCTION TO <u>DECOLONISING</u> OUR THINKING IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.



Introduction to Our Guide

The motivation behind this guide came from our consideration of what exactly we mean when we say 'decolonising'. The term itself is predisposed to viewing decolonisation as a **goal** rather than an **ongoing process.** Within the English literature curriculum, decolonisation is not so much emphasised as post-colonial studies. It is also unlikely for students to be aware of decolonisation work being done within their departments. In light of this, we set out to **create a guide** that introduces some of the **key frameworks** with which we **approach the study of English Literature.** We hope that it will prompt students into questioning how coloniality influences their learning. We engaged extensively with current first-reading lists in order to provide **material to supplement their approach** to decolonising their thinking and tried to briefly summarise how literary theories can intersect with decolonial approaches to literary studies.



READ

THE GUIDE

Choosing Our Theories

- We chose focus by reflecting on our own time studying literature.
- Rather than researching extensively, we considered what we would have wanted to learn about decolonisation when we started our degrees.
- We selected **9 theoretical frameworks** to evaluate with the goal of 'decolonising English literature' in mind.

Future Implementation

- Our aim as decolonisng interns is to create a withstanding project aimed at long-term, institutional decolonisation.
- Whilst changing reading lists, wording in modules and diversifying secondary reading is important, decolonisation must be a dual effort between those
 who teach and those who learn.
- We must actively engage students in decolonial thinking.



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We propose our poster be circulated to prospective students and first year students to help them begin decolonising their learning independently.
This will also encourage students who have an interest in decolonising learning and teaching to view Durham University as an institution which will support their goals.