

## Decoloniality: Reclaiming Indigenous Knowledges & Rebirth New Perspectives

This webinar series is organised by the Children and Childhood Research Group, Manchester Metropolitan University Education & Social Research Institute (ESRI), in collaboration with the University of Helsinki and SahWira Africa International (NGO).



**Opening Creative Offering:** Many Measures Make My Metre -  
**Contributor:** Afrolektronik - <https://soundcloud.com/Afrolektronik>



AfroLektronik is a musician of West African origin who lives in Manchester and tries to translate music inspired by his native folklore into the language of electronic music. In the piece composed for this webinar, Afro will explore polyrhythms as a metaphorical landscape on which many interpretations of the nature and possible subdivisions of time can coexist. The dynamics between the perceived colonial incumbent and alternative rhythms is portrayed dynamically through the volume of the different drums. Will they all sound well together at equal level? Perhaps a talking drum adopts the role of interlocutor, maybe jester or even a mediator who opens the way to understanding and engaging with the possibility of a reconciled coexistence. With respect to the theme of the webinar, AfroLektronik has named the piece Many Measures Make My Metre.

## Guest speakers

### **Paper 1: Decolonizing The Mind and Indigenous Knowledge Systems.**

**Contributor:** Sandew Hira - [www.sandewhira.com](http://www.sandewhira.com)



**Brief bio:** Sandew Hira, penname of Dew Baboeram, is secretary of the Decolonial International Network Foundation ([DIN](#)). He studied economics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam in Holland. He has written 25 books on different topics, among them colonial history. His last book is titled *Decolonizing The Mind: A guide to decolonial theory and practice* (Amrit Publisher, January 2023). In his contribution Sandew Hira explains the interconnection of these theories with the need to reconstruct knowledge from a civilizational perspective. What has postmodernism, postcolonialism, orientalism, decoloniality, subaltern theory to do with indigenous knowledge systems? Sandew's CV can be accessed here: <https://iisr.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CV-Sandew-Hira-20200921.pdf> You can download the table of contents of the book [here](#) and the Introductory chapter [here](#). You can order the book here: <https://shop.iirc.org/products/decolonizing-the-mind-a-guide-to-decolonial-theory-and-practice-sandew-hira> Here is the link to his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@DecolonizingTheMindwithSandewH>.

**Paper 2: *Interspecies performance and knowledge production.*** Contributor, Prof. Tuija Kokkonen - <https://tuijakokkonen.fi/>



**Tuija Kokkonen** is an artist, a researcher and a professor of artistic research at the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki. She received her MA (Theatre Studies, Gender Studies) from the University of Helsinki, and DA (Theatre) from Theatre Academy, University of Arts Helsinki. Since 1996, she has worked on a series of site-specific memo performances as the director and the artistic director of Maus & Orlovski, an ever-changing performance collective of artists and practitioners from various fields. The memos are explorations on relationships between performance, “nature”, nonhuman and time, and the role of performance in the age of ecological crises. They chart terrains between genres of art and between species, terrains where aesthetics, ethics, and politics are inseparable. Since 1999 the memos have been performed mainly in the program of Kiasma Theatre/ Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, and internationally. Kokkonen has been teaching, publishing and performing widely in her interest areas nationally as well as internationally. Her doctoral artistic research project was entitled *Esityksen mahdollinen luonto -suhde ei-inhimilliseen esitystapahtumassa keston ja potentiaalisuuden näkökulmasta*. (The Potential Nature of Performance: The Relationship to the Non-Human in the Performance Event from the Perspective of Duration and Potentiality, Acta Scenica 2017). This work incorporates a series of interspecies performances called *Memos of Time* — performances with and for non-humans (2006)

**Paper 3: Reparative Interventions: Renegotiating Archive, Memory & Place from a Decolonial Perspective. Contributor:** Sasha Huber - <https://www.sashahuber.com/>



**Sasha Huber** (b. 1975) is a Helsinki-based internationally recognised visual artist-researcher of Swiss-Haitian heritage. Huber's work is concerned with the politics of memory, care and belonging in relation to colonial residues left in the environment. Connecting history and the present, she uses and responds to archival material within a layered creative practice that encompasses performance-based reparative interventions, video, photography, and collaborations. Huber also usurps the staple gun, aware of its symbolic significance as a weapon, while offering the potential to renegotiate unequal power dynamics and the possibility of repair, symbolically stitching colonial wounds together. Known for her artistic research contribution to the “Demounting Louis

Agassiz” campaign, she is aiming at reassessing the Swiss-born glaciologist’s contentious racist heritage. She holds an MA in visual culture from Aalto University in Helsinki and is presently undertaking a practice-based PhD in artistic research at Zurich University of the Arts. In 2018 Huber was the recipient of a State Art Award from the Arts Promotion Centre Finland. In 2021–2024 her work is touring under the title “You Name It”, circulated by The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery in Toronto. A comprehensive monograph with the same title was edited by The Power Plant and Autograph in London and was published by Mousse Publishing in November 2022.

**Paper 4: Colonialism, Decoloniality & Healing. Contributor, Alaso Olivia Patience**



**Alaso Olivia Patience**, is a founder and Executive Director of Nowwhitesaviors and Sankara Pan-African Library, Human Rights Activist, Senior Social worker, Consultant on International development, Sme:White-Saviorism and Ethical story telling, TOT: On Pan-Africanism and social justice