

ABSTRACT

Myth and History in Postcolonial Consciousness: The Politics of Theory and Praxis

Editors: Dr. Arti Nirmal, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Dr. Sayan Dey, Assistant Professor, Amity Law School, Amity University, Noida.

A decolonial Dreaming

Grace Gibson - Sathya Sai High, graciejoy.gibson@gmail.com

anique vered - independent researcher/ Senselab, aniquevered@gmail.com

and the yarns of our ancestors meeting our descendents

< a yarn (English, Australian) is a story, a chat, a learning, a thread >

My name is Grace Gibson, my mother is from Natewa Bay, Fiji and my father is from Nambucca Heads, Gumbayngirr Country. And my name is anique vered, I come from the Jewish diaspora, belonging nowhere but in the connections between. Together, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we were both born, and welcome you to this shared space of belonging.¹

< Our collective voices echo the Songlines through post-colonial remnants >

Songlines are integral interconnected maps that trace over different Aboriginal Countries through song. They reveal the Dreaming - marking the route of ancestral spirits as they created the land, flora and fauna - and help us navigate ceremonies and natural lore. The Songlines are key to sustaining the land and culture for generations to come.

Here, we bring forth and sing a new Songline that traces our shared becoming in belonging. Together we trace Creation, our ancestors' stories, the impact of colonisation on them, and the intergenerational impacts on us. We sing this Songline to pave a safe space for inclusion and agency across the Indigenous/ non-Indigenous systemic divide.

< We speak from our inbetween to reclaim the historicisation of these myths-in-their-making >

Opening up an accessible space for *the inbetween* we attempt to write in, under, through and beyond boundaries of difference. With a post-para-ethnography as our methodology we evolve on the orientations of history, the hierarchies and semiotics of division, the commodification of knowledge creation and the conditioning of choice-come-agency. We move with the yarns of our elders, brothers, sisters and cousins : with the *Women Who Made the Sea* and *Seven Sisters* Songlines : with Lea's *free radical anthropology* : with Somerville and Perkins' *Singing the Coast* : with Povenelli's *anthropologies of an otherwise* : with Mbembe's *little secret of coloniality* : with Jackson's *Home in the World* : with Moten and Harney's *Undercommons* : and with you as a reader writing this space into becoming too.

< We sing to unhinge and revive a shared space of belonging >

¹ In Australia, it is respectful to perform an Acknowledgement to Country when opening any kind of gathering.

Moving from simply naming issues to collaboratively offering solutions for them, post and decolonial scholarship are fused with the lived experience and agency building of Australian Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies. By collectively writing a Songline of today we revive the Dreaming and offer a sense of belonging - especially to Indigenous young people - in the futures unfolding before us.

This is not just an academic paper. This is an offering beyond. An invitation to sing life back into our Dreaming.

-

Bell D. (1993). *Daughters of the Dreaming*. USA: University of Minnesota Press.

Cowlshaw, G. (2004). *Blackfellas, Whitefellas and the Hidden Injuries of Race*. UK: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing.

Glynn-McDonald R. *Commonground*. <https://www.commonground.org.au/>. (Accessed 14 March 2019).

Harney S. and Moten F. (2013). *The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning and Black Study*. USA: Minor Compositions.

Jackson M.D. (1995). *At Home in the World*. USA: Duke University Press.

Lea T. "Contemporary Anthropologies of Indigenous Australia" in the *Annual Review of Anthropology*. (2012). 41:187–202.

Mbembe A. (2017). *Critique of Black Reason*. Translated by Laurent Dubois. SA: Wits Press.

National Museum of Australia. (2017). *Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters*. AU: National Museum of Australia Press.

Ndlovu-Gatsheni S.J. "The Dynamics of Epistemological Decolonisation in the 21st Century: towards Epistemic Freedom" in *Strategic Review for Southern Africa*. (2018). 40:1: 16-45.

Perkins T. and Somerville M. (2010). *Singing the Coast*. AU: Aboriginal Studies Press.

Povinelli E.A. (2011). *Economies of Abandonment: Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism*. USA: Duke University Press.

A decolonial Dreaming

Grace Gibson - Sathya Sai High, graciejoy.gibson@gmail.com
anique vered - independent researcher/ Senselab, aniquevered@gmail.com