



## 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Decolonising EU Law<sup>1</sup>

*Oxford, 13-14 July 2025*

At a conference in Copenhagen in 2022, organiser Hanna Eklund stated that:

“Understanding more about colonialism and the EU legal order is not merely, although is importantly also, a historical exercise; it has the potential to constitute a starting point for examinations of the EU law of today.”

‘Decolonisation of EU law’ constitutes such a starting point for examinations of EU law. This would be a move away from a framework of thinking that is Eurocentric and privileges this way of seeing above other experiences and perspectives from parts of the world. It is a potentially exciting new approach, broader than diversifying (diversity is only part of the decolonisation agenda because diversity can still exist within a “western bias”), which can open up the world of European integration and EU law to a new generation of scholars and audiences.

The purpose of this conference is to consider in more detail what this starting point could look like – what happens when we take colonialism and coloniality as the starting point for our interaction with EU law? How do these ideas amend the purpose, principles and practice that inform our research and teaching in EU law today? What traditions need to change and what remains the same? Is this even possible – can EU law “shake off its commitment to colonial ways of thinking” (Meghji)?

This conference therefore aims to provide opportunity for informed reflection on the EU law canon: what is seen as worthy of study, as well as the way in which core issues pertaining to Europe are told and who has legitimacy to tell those stories. Reflection on decolonisation in EU law also raises the broader question of what legal education is for and who the legal profession needs to be training to create an accessible and sustainable justice system that supports and strengthens social justice in a multi-cultural democracy.

### Programme

#### July 13<sup>th</sup>

##### Arrival in Oxford

**19.00 – 21.00** Conference dinner

#### July 14<sup>th</sup>

**9:15 – 9:30:** Opening remarks and welcome from Iyiola Solanke

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that on 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> July the **1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Comparative Law of the Global Majority** will be held in Oxford.

**Purpose – *Why* decolonise EU Law?**

**9:30 – 10:45 Panel 1 Colonial Legacies in EU Law**

**Chair** Iyiola Solanke

**Discussant** Patricia Ouma

**Speakers**

- Hanna Eklund – The narrative of EU integration
- Emily Marker – Youth Education and EU Integration
- Michel Erpelding – Historical legacies in EU Law

**10:45 – 11:15:** Coffee break

**11:15 – 12:30 Principles:** Keynote address - Folúke Adébí sí – why decolonise?

**Chair:** Ope Adegbulu

**12:30 – 13:45:** Lunch

**Practice - *How* to decolonise EU law**

**13:45 – 15:00 Panel 2 Internal Market law**

**Chair** Gildelen Atybiyo

**Discussant** Nozizwe Dube

**Speakers**

- Martijn Hesselink – EU private law
- Janine Silga – EU development and immigration law
- Joshua Castellino – Regulation of the supply chain in EU law

**15:00 – 15:30:** Coffee break

**15:30 – 16:45 Panel 3 EU external law**

**Chair** Amaka Vanni

**Discussant** Zakariya Nahoue

**Speakers**

- Antonio Salvador M Alcazar III – the EU's external relations as a global trade power with the global souths
- Lionel Zevounou – EU post-colonial heritages
- tbc

**16:45 – 17:00** Closing remarks/ Next steps - Iyiola Solanke