

# Urban Echoes

## Unveiling colonial Histories, Shaping decolonial Futures!

Seminar | 17.06 - 24.06.2024 | Klosterneuburg bei Wien (Austria)

Service Civil International ([SCI](#)) is happy to open applications for an in-person, 8-day seminar (including arrival and departure days). It will be hosted by [SCI Austria](#) with financial support from the ERASMUS+ Programme.

*\*this training is funded by an EU grant. It is only open to participants coming from or being officially resident in the following countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Lebanon, Netherlands, Spain, Tunisia and Ukraine.*

### Background of this Seminar

Are you passionate about uncovering hidden narratives and exploring the impact of colonial history on today's cities? Ever wondered how Europe's colonial past still influences our cities today? Are you excited about exploring creative ways to shape a future that embraces a decolonial perspective?

Join us in the seminar *Urban Echoes: Unveiling Colonial Histories, Shaping Decolonial Futures* and be part of a collective effort to open up space for diverse narratives. Let's work together to understand the echoes of the past and initiate a dialogue between various historical and current urban realities, while also making visible and emphasising the voices that have been overlooked or marginalised in our urban landscapes. We're not only focusing on former colonies but also on cities where the colonists lived. Our seminar *Urban Echoes - Understanding Colonial Histories, Shaping Decolonial Futures* aims to delve into Europe's colonial past and how it still affects today's cities. We'll concentrate on how colonial history influenced the development of urban spaces like parks, street names and the way we live within them.

### Training Content

**In this seminar we focus on colonialism by European colonial powers in the time between the 15th and middle of 20th century and its consequences up until today.**

Our journey begins with an introduction into colonial history and theory, delving into different perspectives on historical facts and important concept definitions. We will also work with skills and methods such as cartography, walking interviews, audio-walks or artistic research. Equipped with a toolkit made out of theoretical insights and techniques, we'll step into the field and take a look at Vienna's colonial history and colonial continuities. Examples of the deep embedding of colonial heritage and post-colonial structures in urban space include the fact that many cities still have street names that commemorate colonial rule or colonial personalities, or that monuments and statues continue to represent colonial symbols. More till the end of the seminar, we would like to give you

the opportunity to come up with a (small) project, combining the different topics, methods and insights. Of course, as trainers we will support you all along the way.

The structure that we'd like to follow will give you an insight into how we would like to unravel the layers of colonial history and continuities while also fostering a deeper understanding and contributing to a meaningful exploration of our shared past.

- Dealing with and discussing European colonial history
- Making the connection between colonial continuities and urban development
- Dealing with and getting to know important terms/concepts regarding colonialism and decolonisation
- Learning about colonial heritage and the effects today in formerly colonising/colonised countries/regions
- Familiarisation with methods relating to city and space, such as mapping, city walks and audio walks
- Working with audiovisual media (e.g. creation of audio walks)

All in all: We want to stress that this seminar is not a series of lectures on a topic but a space for exchange and creation that, despite having some structure, will be shaped by the needs and expectations of participants. We set this training up to be interactive and with a diverse range of methods, with movement and interactivity. During this project, we want to create an atmosphere of peace, empathy, belonging and safety within our group.

## Who is involved in the seminar?

SCI Austria is one branch of Service Civil International. Service Civil International (SCI) is a global movement dedicated to fostering peace, social justice, and sustainable development. With a rich history spanning 104 years, SCI organises impactful international volunteering projects and innovative educational activities that promote intercultural dialogue and inspire positive change.

## Our trainers/facilitators:

**Juliana Hutai** (she/her) is an enthusiastic urban and spatial sociologist. She is particularly fascinated by big cities and metropolises. When she is not working on topics such as housing, youth, the city and “caring cities”, she works as an educational trainer and seminar facilitator. Designing seminars and organising them with love is part of her everyday life. She prefers summer to winter and loves pistachio ice cream.

**Sima\* Jakob** (they/them) is a trainer, facilitator and activist based in Leipzig, Germany. Their main topics are climate justice, anti-discrimination and gender as well as colonial remembrance. Sima\* works as a trainer for SCI and other NGOs since 2014 and is a social-geographer with a hidden passion for urban development. They love organising intersectional activities and sometimes get a bit lost in illustrating flipcharts. Sima\* is really into talking about train connections and playing board/card games.

**Tamia Alcázar** (she/her) is based in Vienna/Austria where she studies International Development. After her voluntary service in her native country, Ecuador, 2016/2017 she started her work as a facilitator and trainer in the field of Global Justice and Global Learning. She then started working for the NGO *Jugend Eine Welt* coordinating volunteer activities. Now, her focus lies on decolonial education, such as Anti-racism, Critical Whiteness and White Saviorism, emphasising the BIPOC perspective and intersectionality. When she is not thinking about shaping decolonial futures, she is usually spending time with her family or wandering around with her dog, Baki.

## Participation

### Finances and Travel

- Food and accommodation during the training will be fully provided;
- Travel costs will be reimbursed after the training up to an agreed limit depending on the sending country:
  - up to €275 (for green travel, €320) for participants travelling from France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Tunisia and Ukraine;
  - Up to €26 for participants travelling from Austria;
  - Up to € 360 (for green travel, €410) for participants travelling from Lebanon.
- We strongly encourage green travel (i.e. avoid travel by plane, if possible; instead travel by train and bus). We are available to give you advice on this and offer a higher travel budget for eco-friendly options;
- Other necessary expenses, such as visa fees will be reimbursed after approval by organisers.

### Location and Food

The training will take place in a scouts centre ([Niederösterreichische Landesverbandszentrum Klosterneuburg bei Wien](#)) with simple living conditions close to Vienna, Austria. You will sleep in a room shared with a few other people. The place is equipped with a kitchen, living area and big outdoor chilling space. Nearby you can enjoy the wilderness of Wiener Walk, the forest surrounding Vienna and enjoy a refreshing bath in the Danube river.

Food will be provided by a local cook and will mostly be vegan with vegetarian options. The kitchen is however available for everybody to use. We definitely offer options for those with food intolerance/allergies.

### Care Work

We would like everyone to carry out care work during the seminar. Care work describes the activities of caring and looking after others. In general care work includes, for example, childcare or care for the elderly, but also family support, domestic care and helping friends are understood as care work. For us in the seminar, shared care work means that we look after each other, we all take on smaller tasks and together we create a caring atmosphere.

## **Seminar as Brave Space**

At the seminar, we will talk about colonial heritage, but also about social crises and structural inequalities. We all have different backgrounds and social positions in a hierarchised world. It is therefore important to us to create a framework in which everyone in the seminar feels as comfortable and safe as possible and where there is the opportunity to share experiences of discrimination, for critical self-reflection and space to encourage each other. We therefore work with the concept of 'brave/courageous space' according to Micky Scott-Bey Jones. There will be a joint group agreement on site.

### **Participants' profile:**

- Participants must be 18+
- Participants who would like to learn about colonial history, colonial remembrance, neocolonial structures and decolonisation in the urban space
- Participants who can commit to participate for the whole duration of the activity;
- This seminar will be held in English. Unfortunately, we do not have the necessary resources to guarantee a translation. Participants must therefore have English skills that enable them to participate.

We explicitly encourage participants of all genders, sexual orientations, abilities and nationalities as well as cultural backgrounds, religion and social status to apply. There will be a space to share any inclusion needs before the training, and the team will be in touch in case there is the need to organise any special arrangements.

However, the seminar welcomes anyone interested in a deep and engaged dialogue about the impact of colonial legacies in urban environments and the creation of decolonial futures. It is a platform for the exchange of different experiences, perspectives and areas of expertise in order to jointly develop a comprehensive understanding of the complexity of urban dynamics in the context of the colonial past.

## **Ready to apply?**

If you've read all the information in this call and feel ready to apply... amazing! You are ready to fill in the application form. Find it here:

[LINK application form](#)

For more information or questions, please write to: [coordination.sciaustria@gmail.com](mailto:coordination.sciaustria@gmail.com)

All those accepted will later receive a detailed info sheet with information on the venue, detailed timetable, and preparation tasks before the training.