



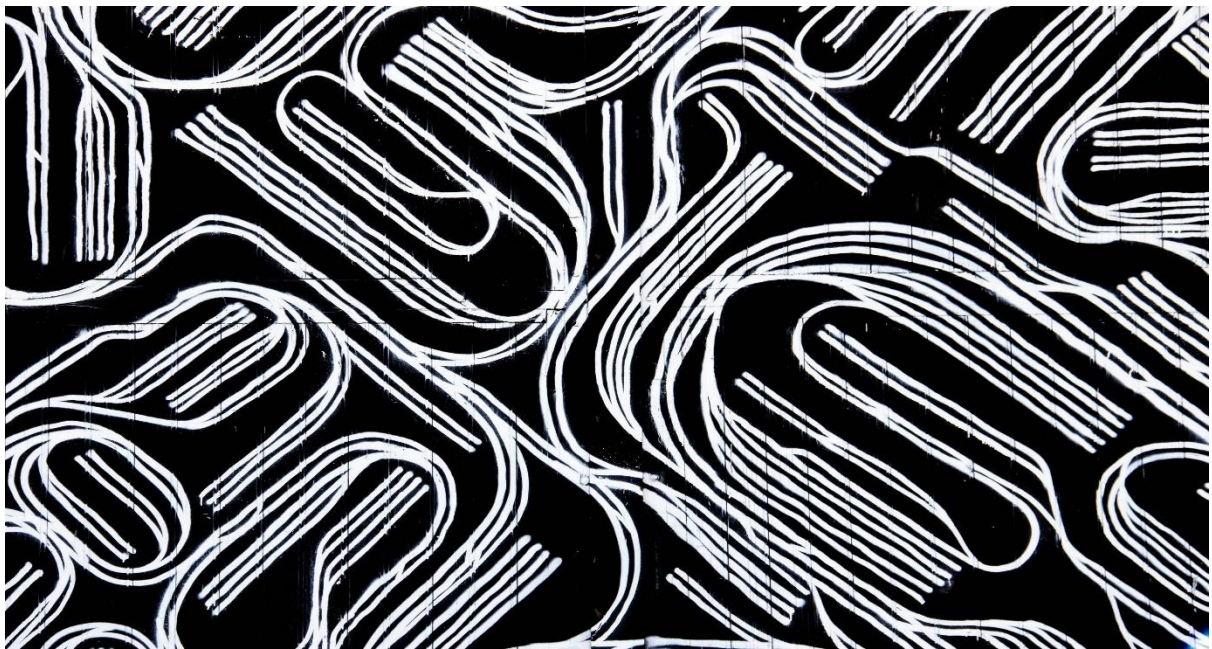
UK Research  
and Innovation



# A Symposium on Injury, Global Justice and the Political

6 - 7 September 2024

King's College London



## **Symposium: Injury, Global Justice and the Political, 6 - 7 September 2024, King's College London**

We face, in our contemporary times, the devastations of war and the ruination of lived spaces. At the same time, and in non-war contexts, we witness the impoverishment of populations, their displacement, and the destruction of habitats, variously through the activities of extractive industries, mal-government, and the fracturing of public infrastructures, all with seeming impunity. We also witness exclusion and discrimination enacted through speech and institutionalised practices. Such practices have deep roots in colonial violence and dispossession, and they continue to define relations globally.

This **interdisciplinary symposium** provides a unique opportunity to bring together a group of scholars and practitioners who seek to place questions of the **politics of global justice** centre-stage. We invite participants engaged with the following approaches to the subject:

### **Conceptual Work**

Is the concept, 'injury', adequate to the task of working through the devastations wrought against populations through these different practices? Some authors prefer to use the terms 'slow' or 'structural' violence, while others prefer 'harm', 'vulnerability', 'trauma', 'precarity', 'depletion', and 'fracture', to name but a few. Each of these may in turn place the lens on differences of gender, race, sexuality, class, or nation. This section of the symposium invites scholars and practitioners to consider the work of conceptualisation, and how this feeds into not just understanding, but also practices relating to reparation and other modes of redress. How are these concepts suggestive of specific conceptions of time and space, or of subjectivity and agency and relations of power globally?

## Political Agency and the Politics of Global Justice

What is the relationship between injury, broadly defined, and the emergence of political agency? Judith Butler, for example, relates vulnerability to the politics of assembly. Mahmood Mamdani writes of the decolonised political community. How do harmed, injured, precarious, traumatised, and vulnerable communities emerge as political agents? What are the conditions of possibility for agency relating to global justice and how is it articulated? How is the subject of injury defined and configured? To what extent does the practice of defining or categorising the subject of injury play a part in governing what or who is qualified and who can speak? Spivak's 'can the subaltern speak?' is a question that continues to resonate and challenge. At the same time, 'silencing' is a governing practice that has wider manifestations.

## Practices and Mechanisms

Papers are also invited relating to concrete cases. Empirical investigations and presentations can be archival, ethnographic, visual, and oral. They can focus on the works of particular artists or filmmakers. They can be testimonials of what is directly observed and heard at 'sites of injury' and locations of agency. Presentations can also focus on methods and their effectiveness in promoting understanding and the mobilisation of resources for populations impacted.

## Context and Practicalities

The symposium will take place over two days, the **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September**, at King's College London. It forms part of a research project, *Mapping Injury*, a UKRI Horizon Europe funded project, with Principal Investigator, Vivienne Jabri. See <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/mapping-injury>.

There will be keynote presentations and contributions from selected applicants. The symposium proceedings will be published in the form of an edited volume and/or a special issue. Contributors to the symposium are asked to submit short, one paragraph abstracts by the **22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024**. Please send abstract submissions to [Hannah.Goozee@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Hannah.Goozee@kcl.ac.uk).