



# CONFERENCIA DE MAURIZIO MELONI

## DECOLONIZING BIOLOGY? HEALTH, COLONIAL TRAUMA, AND EPIGENETICS FROM A GLOBAL SOUTH PERSPECTIVE

### SOBRE ESTA CONFERENCIA

Amid growing international calls to decolonize scientific curricula and practices, I discuss in this presentation three areas of possible debate for a less colonial view of biology and the life-sciences. Firstly, I analyse the imperial infrastructures of biological and medical knowledge, from early botanical investigations to Darwin's theory of natural selection, to the twentieth century development of eugenics and human genomics. I ask in this section how compromised the epistemic history of biology and health sciences is, and how many alternative possibilities have been erased or silenced during this imperial history. Secondly, I trace a possible historical path toward a less Eurocentric and more inclusive view of bodies/environment practices before the rise of modern biology. Finally, I look at epigenetics as a possible site of decolonial biology, I suggest looking at the specific uptake of epigenetics by Southern and Indigenous epistemologies to deflate cognitive tensions between the Western biological canon and postcolonial settings in areas like human development, health, historical trauma, and epistemic justice.



**MAURIZIO MELONI**

Maurizio Meloni is a social theorist with strong connections to the history and social study of biology and the health sciences. He is the author of *Political Biology: Science and Social Values in Human Heredity from Eugenics to epigenetics* (Palgrave, 2016: Winner of the Human Biology Association Book Award, 2020), *Impressionable Biologies: From the Archaeology of Plasticity to the Sociology of Epigenetics* (Routledge, 2019), co-editor of *Biosocial Matters* (Wiley 2016), and chief editor of the *Palgrave Handbook of Biology and Society* (2018). He is currently Associate Professor in Sociology in the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University, Australia, where he was previously an ARC Future Fellow (2019-2023)

#### MODALIDAD HÍBRIDA

**PRESENCIAL: SALA DE GRAUS, CAMPUS CATALUNYA,  
UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI  
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**MARTES  
10 DE OCTUBRE DE 2023**



**11.00 H**



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**MAS GLOBAL**

MÀSTER EN  
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MASTER'S DEGREE IN MEDICAL  
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