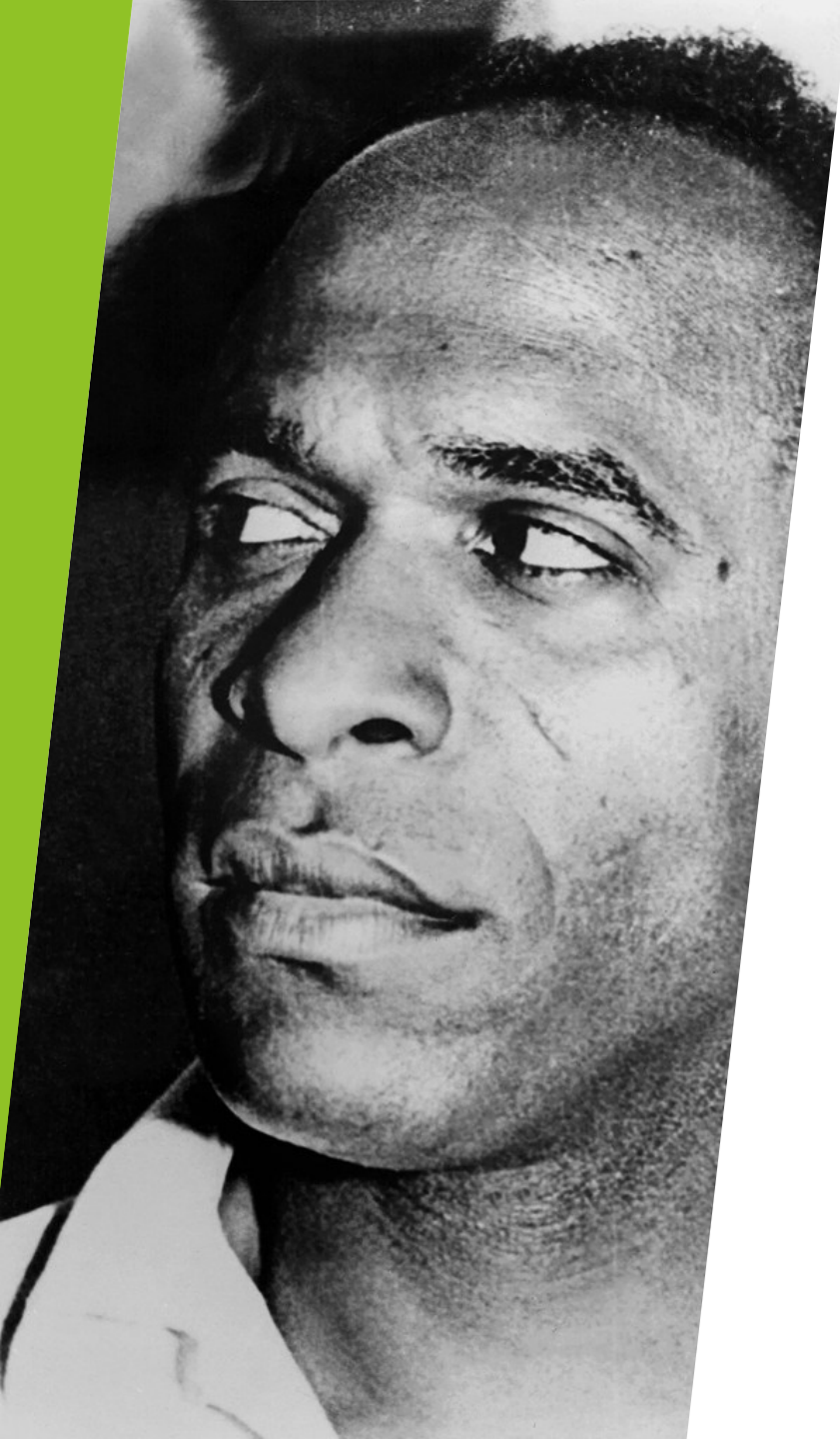


The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, including light lime green, medium green, and dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central white area.

Eurocentrism and Orientalism:  
postcolonial critiques and  
imaginative geographies



## Postcolonial situation and psychoanalysis

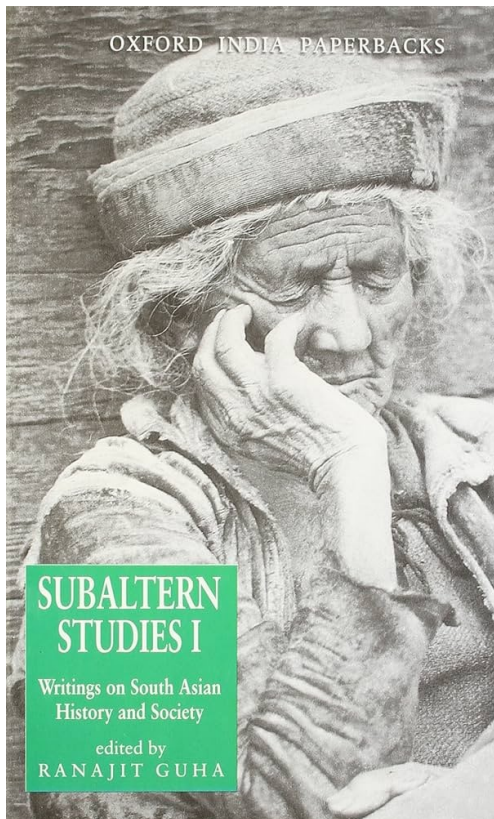
- ▶ Frantz Fanon
  - ▶ originally from Martinique, but important in France and northern Africa
  - ▶ freedom fighter, philosopher, psychiatrist
- ▶ Postcolonial reworking of then important psychoanalytical concepts
- ▶ Skin-ego
- ▶ Black consciousness

# Birmingham school of cultural studies

- ▶ Beginning in the 1960s: CCCS
- ▶ Workers' culture at first
  - ▶ Critiques of the idea of the „high culture“
- ▶ Poststructuralism and Marxism sitting together
- ▶ Stuart Hall
  - ▶ Bringing postcolonial theory into it
- ▶ The imperative of the connection of Marxist critique of global capitalism and the postcolonial cultural critique
- ▶ Researches of media production and media consumption primarily
- ▶ David Morley

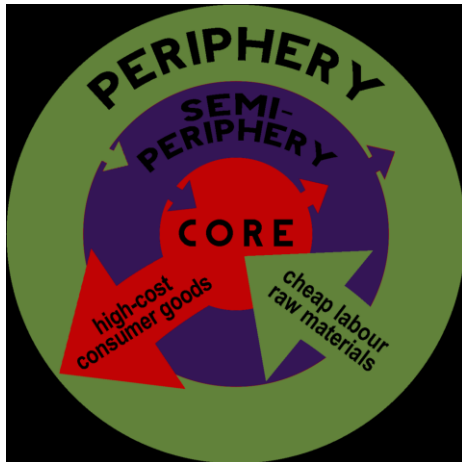


# Indian subaltern studies



- ▶ Studies of Indian peasants and lower classes and castes
- ▶ Gayatri C. Spivak
  - ▶ Interest in deconstruction and its usage for postcolonial contexts
- ▶ Dipesh Chakrabarty
  - ▶ Critique of Western teleological historical thinking
  - ▶ Provincializing Europe
- ▶ Partha Chatterjee
  - ▶ Interest in postcolonial nationalisms and the influence of the Empire thought on them
- ▶ David Arnold
  - ▶ The question of postcolonial thinking about nature

# Dependency theory and the uneven development



- ▶ Samir Amin
  - ▶ Egyptian Marxist
  - ▶ Capitalism and its culture = Eurocentrism
  - ▶ The advocate of „delinking“
- ▶ James Blaut
  - ▶ Radical geographer
  - ▶ The critic of Eurocentric historical sociology
  - ▶ Revision of the world-history and concepts of Eurocentric diffusionism and the tunnel of time
  - ▶ „*The diagnosis and treatment of a serious malady of the mind.*“ (Blaut 1993: 215)

# Feminist postcolonialism

- ▶ Critique of the focus on First World women only
- ▶ Not only the problem of gender difference but the problem of gender difference vis-à-vis social class, race, ethnicity, caste or sexual difference
- ▶ Audre Lorde
  - ▶ „*The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House*“
  - ▶ First World women use the tools of patriarchy to oppress Third World women
- ▶ Chandra T. Mohanty
  - ▶ Double colonization
  - ▶ Critique of Western feminisms that see non-Western women as a unitary universal category





# Orientalism

- ▶ Edward Said
  - ▶ Interest in occupied Palestine
  - ▶ Inspiration in Foucault's discourse theory
  - ▶ Contrapuntal reading
- ▶ Said's elaboration are both, textual and material, and both, historical and political
- ▶ Orientalist imaginative geographies dramatize the distance and difference between what is close to us and what is far away.
- ▶ Huge influence on human geography (and other social sciences)



# What is Orientalism?

- ▶ According to Said, Orientalism is a form of intellectual domination, rooted in public (and other) discourses, that creates a dichotomy between the "civilized" West and the "exotic" Orient, perpetuating stereotypes and justifying colonial and imperial ambitions
- ▶ This framework highlights how cultural representations can serve to maintain and enforce unequal power dynamics between Western and non-Western space





# Orientalist imaginative geographies

- ▶ Imaginative constructions that dramatize the distance and difference between what is close to us and what is far away
- ▶ They fold *distance into difference* through a series of spatializations
- ▶ Fundamental practice for the process of Othering people that are supposed not to belong into “our” community

## Characteristic of Core - Charasteric of Periphery

Inventiveness - Imitativeness

Rationality, intellect - Irrationality, emotion, instict

Abstract thought - Concrete thought

Theoretical reasoning - Empirical, practical reasoning

Mind - Body, matter

Discipline - Spontaneity

Adulthood - Childhood

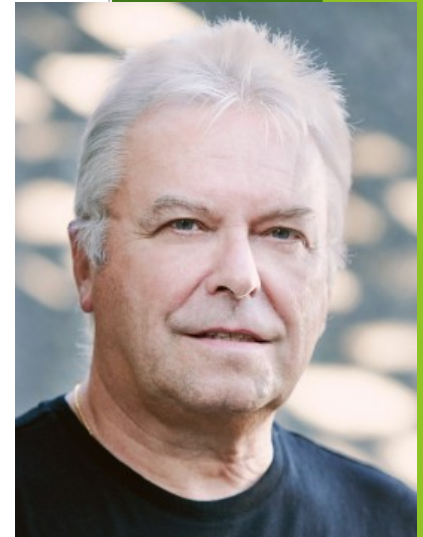
Sanity - Insanity

Science - Sorcery

Progress - Stagnation

# Derek Gregory (born 1951)

- ▶ One of the most important theorists in geography
- ▶ Political, cultural, historical geographer
  - ▶ University of Cambridge
  - ▶ University of British Columbia
- ▶ Geographical imaginations and imaginative geographies
  - ▶ Postmodern transformation of geography
  - ▶ Introducing Edward Said's postcolonial theory into geography
  - ▶ Geographies of war and peace
  - ▶ Elaborations in the topic of Orientalism and war
  - ▶ Highly relevant today -> Palestine





# GEOGRAPHICAL IMAGINATIONS



DEREK GREGORY



# the Colonial Present



Derek Gregory

"*The Colonial Present* is a 'must read' for all those concerned  
for peace and justice in our time."

David Harvey, author of *The New Imperialism*



[Imaginative geographies] are 'imaginative' not only because that is what they *are* (they are quite literally fabrications, a word that usefully combines 'something fictionalized' with 'something made') but also because that is *where* they reside, concealed in the collective unconscious, where they too often fan the flames of enmity and hatred ... [Through them, the] space [of 'others'] is often seen as the inverse of 'our' space: a sort of negative in the photographic sense that they might develop into something like 'us', but also the site of absence, because 'they' are seen somehow to lack the positive tonalities that distinguish 'us'. (Gregory, [2004](#), p. 801)

# How does Orientalism work?

- ▶ Traditionally legitimized by the “common sense”
- ▶ Discursive, but performative
- ▶ Drawing on long-term histories of intercultural contact in a political way
- ▶ Real diverse non-Western people with their lives, biographies, experiences are not important for imaginative geographies
  - ▶ Stereotypization is important
- ▶ Remaking diachronic global spacetime into stable synchronic spatial segments
- ▶ Idea of the single timeline of progress and stabilization of Others’ time in the past
  - ▶ Justification of economic inequalities
- ▶ Simon Springer: Orientalist segmentarities and stabilisations are framed not only as a process of self-affirmation but also as a denial of potentially beneficial associations with Others



# Imaginative geographies of (post)colonial natures



- ▶ (Post)colonial productions of space  
-> (post)colonial productions of nature
- ▶ Western cultural ideology of non-Western nature
  - ▶ Nature to be dominated and domesticated
  - ▶ Feminization and pathologization
  - ▶ Nurturing mother / wild, seductive, unruly siren
- ▶ Necessity to be disciplined by (ordered, rational, masculine) culture

# World-as-exhibition

- ▶ Production of „spaces of constructed visibility“
  - ▶ which are also always „spaces of constructed invisibility“
- ▶ Modern rational viewing subject being able to dis-cover the „real“ order inside the chaos of the non-modern and the pre-modern
- ▶ Natures typologized and taxonomized
  - ▶ Dangerous-safe, detestable-beautiful, unnatural-natural, abnormal-normal, exotic-ordinary, polished-monstrous, intelligible-unintelligible, useless-useful
- ▶ Then commodified and mathematized
- ▶ Strange other natures eventually to become familiar in their very strangeness

# Visual fantasies and haptic terrors

- ▶ Moral geography of natures
  - ▶ Other natures as a paradise
  - ▶ Other natures as pestilential and excessive
  - ▶ Noble savage / ignoble savage
- ▶ The fantasy of tropical heterotopia
  - ▶ Tropical sublime
- ▶ Visuality versus haptic sensuality
- ▶ „Traders and militiamen constructed a landscape of wildness and savagery so they themselves became wild and savage: the violence of their actions mirrored the violence of their fears.“ (Gregory 2001: 107)





# Natures and war

- ▶ Cartography versus corpography
  - ▶ Generals in front of battlemaps / soldiers „down there“ inside dangerous, messy, detrimental (and often destroyed) nature
  - ▶ It required a „re-mapping“, the improvisation of a corpography rather than a cartography, in which haptics had to be heightened
- ▶ Interdependence of corporeal death and environmental death
- ▶ Landscape turning into „anti-landscape“
- ▶ Soldiers to be reduced to a savage „state of nature“ by non-Western nature
  - ▶ Survivors doubting their humanity because of the „inhuman“ nature of the battlefield



# Temperate Europe as the birthplace of progress



- ▶ Environmental determinisms
- ▶ Three primordial environmental facts: the shapes of the continents, the distribution of domesticable wild plants and animals, and the geographical barriers inhibiting the diffusion of domesticates
  - ▶ Europe's livestock to be sturdier and healthier than those of nontemperate regions
- ▶ Natural determinants of plant and animal ecology as somehow determinants of human ecology
- ▶ Tropical climates as inimical to human activity and cultural progress
  - ▶ Tropical heat, somehow, impedes human mental and physical activity
  - ▶ People plagued with diseases
  - ▶ Tropical agriculture hopelessly unproductive

# GREEN COLONIALISM

## ISRAELI PARKS THAT ERASE AND DISPLACE

### GREEN COLONIALISM

describes how some organizations, policies, or programs harm the land and rights of Indigenous peoples in the name of environmental protection or climate change mitigation, reinforcing colonial legacies.

### IN PALESTINE

Israel uses parks, nature reserves, and forests to conceal the ruins of depopulated Palestinian villages, appropriate land, and curtail Palestinian access and development.

### NON-NATIVE FLORA

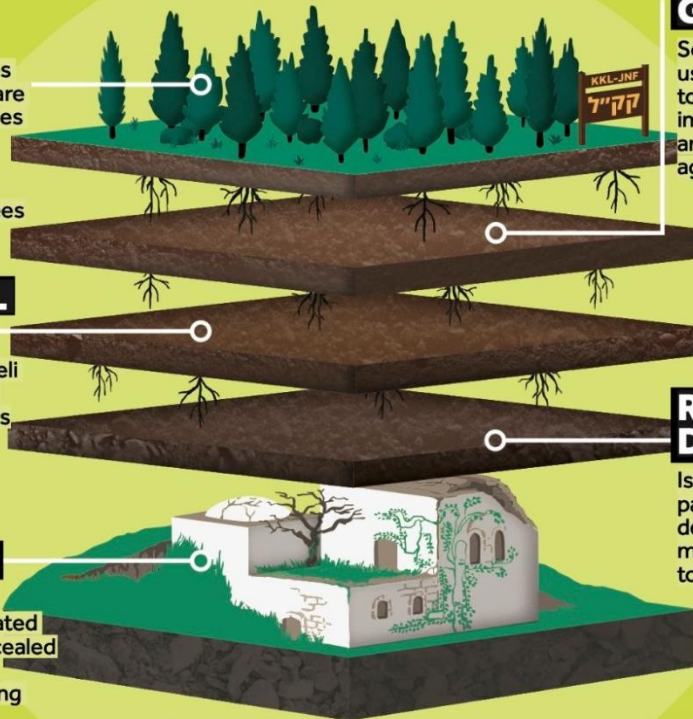
Only 11% of trees in Israeli forests are indigenous species due to Zionist groups planting vast areas of non-native trees

### UNEQUAL ACCESS

The wall and Israeli policies restrict some Palestinians from access to nearby green spaces

### ERASURE

182 Palestinian villages depopulated by Israel are concealed in Israeli parks & forests, preventing refugees from returning



### GREENWASHING

Some Israeli organizations use environmental projects to cultivate a positive global image, while displacing and discriminating against Palestinians

### RESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT

Israeli-controlled parks block Palestinian development plans and marginalize the Palestinian tourism sector



Depopulated Palestinian villages within Israel Nature and Parks Authority reserves & parks

Depopulated Palestinian villages within Jewish National Fund forests & parks

Depopulated Palestinian villages within other tourist sites or hiking trails