

**Decolonial Musings: a conversation with Drs. Trey Adcock, Ameena Batada, Agya Boakye-Boaten, and Jeremias Zunguze**

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**Abstract**

We are pleased to share with you an enriching conversation with Dr. Agya Boakye-Boaten and Dr. Tavengwa Gwekwerere. This conversation is part of a series of conversations we conducted in the Fall of 2020, as part of an effort we call ‘Decolonial Musings.’ The purpose of Decolonial Musings is to think about, discuss, and debate about, and through, decolonial matters. We are interested in how different disciplines and folks are thinking about decolonial approaches, and in particular, how they are putting their own conversations and approaches into practice. The conversation you are about to watch took place on Zoom, on November 13th, 2020. The three Decolonial Musings hosts; Trey Adock of UNC Asheville and the Center for Native Health, Jeremias Zunguze of UNC Asheville, and Ameena Batada of UNC Asheville, interviewed two Africana Studies scholars...This conversation touches on so much, from our guests’ personal experiences in their personal and professional lives, to how the term ‘decolonial’ is used, by whom, and for what purposes. This is especially salient right now in the academy, as the term ‘decolonial’ has become a catch-phrase for so many competing agendas and ideas. It’s also important, as we consider how to practically move forward, in our classrooms, and in society at large. The conversation explores concepts of the colonized body and landscapes, of freedom, dignity, and humanity. We are so grateful to our guests for this important, dynamic conversation...In watching, we hope you are as inspired as we were, in listening.

*“Can you be free within the same system that colonized you? I don’t know.”*

**Keywords: Decolonial v. Postcolonial, Pan-Africanism, Afrocentrism, Black Humanism, Humanity, Liberation, Land, Education, Pedagogy**

Video Links:

[PART ONE](#)

[PART TWO](#)

[PART THREE](#)

[PART FOUR](#)

**Trey Adcock ( ᑕᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᑃᑦᑦᑦ, enrolled Cherokee Nation)** is an Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Director of American Indian & Indigenous Studies at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Adcock earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Florida. He earned a Master of Education in social science education from Armstrong Atlantic University. He was awarded a doctorate in educational studies, with an emphasis in culture, curriculum, and change at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was recently awarded the Educational Policy Fellowship Program, a nationally recognized fellowship for educators whose work reflects strong leadership in the areas of educational policy and child development. His courses include American Indian and indigenous studies, humanities, and 6-1 social studies methods.

**Ameena Batada** is a professor in the Health and Wellness Department at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. Batada has been interested in improving child health and education, particularly among disenfranchised populations. Batada works with several community partners to evaluate health and education programs, to conduct research to support policy advocacy, and to implement intervention studies in schools, churches, and other settings.

**Agya Boakye-Boaten** is the Dean of Social Sciences and Professor of Africana studies, Interdisciplinary and International Studies at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in social work/administration and political science from the University of Ghana, Legon. He earned a Master of Arts in political science (international relations), and a master's in international affairs (African studies) from Ohio University. He was also awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in educational studies, with an emphasis in cultural studies in education at Ohio University. He has taught various interdisciplinary courses including the Contemporary World, African American Experience, and various courses in African and Africana Studies. Boakye-Boaten is an International Scholar as a lifelong member of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society, a seasoned musician, and a master drummer.

**Tavengwa Gwekwerere** is an Associate professor of pan-African studies at California State University, Los Angeles. He holds a Ph.D. in African languages and literature from the University of South Africa and master's and bachelor's degrees in the same discipline from the University of Zimbabwe. His research interests encompass pan-Africanism, Afrocentricity, Afro triumphalism, African reconstruction, the 21st century Zimbabwean novel and European critical discourse on Zimbabwean literature. He is the founding Shenuti of the Zimbabwe division of Afrocentricity International (AI), and a firm believer in the intelligence of African ancestors, the agency of African people and the possibility of an authentic African Renaissance.

**Jeremias Zunguze** is an Associate professor of Africana studies and Liberal Arts 378 coordinator at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley in Hispanic languages and literatures, specializing in Luso-Brazilian studies and Lusophone African literatures and cultures. His research interests include Africana critical theory and trauma and decolonizing studies. Zunguze teaches various courses in the Africana studies program, the humanities program, and the languages and literatures department (Portuguese and Spanish).