



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO

Dipartimento di
Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale



Ciclo Seminari di Dipartimento



Poggi Room - 1st floor



16:00



Monday 16th February 2026

Humiliation. A Colonial Practice

Speaker

Prof. **Shahram Khosravi** (University of Stockholm)

Chair

Paolo Boccagni, Università di Trento

Discussant

Anna Casaglia, Università di Trento

Francesca Decimo, Università di Trento

Ester Gallo, Università di Trento

Daniela Giudici, Politecnico di Torino

Abstract

Humiliation has historically functioned as a strategic instrument of power in conflict, with gendered, sexualized, and racialized forms serving as particularly effective means of degrading both external adversaries and internal dissenters. As such, humiliation plays a critical role in the consolidation of domination. The experience of coloniality, in its various configurations, is intrinsically linked to processes of humiliation. The systematic dehumanization of colonized populations not only enforces their subjugation but also renders them perpetually vulnerable to acts of humiliation. This talk explores contemporary manifestations of humiliation as a colonial practice, with specific reference to three case studies: the genocide in Palestine, border enforcement regimes, and the US-led sanctions imposed on Iran. The focus is not on what humiliation is, but what it does: how it legitimizes domination, mobilizes populist revanchism, and sustains structural violence.

Contacts

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