

"Dear members of the ICOAH community.

I am delighted to welcome you to Kuala Lumpur for the 2019 International Conference on Arts and Humanities, with the theme of "Decolonization in the Arts and Humanities."

Our globalized, multiplicitous realities engender many new forms of collaboration and cross-pollination among peoples and cultures, which generate valuable knowledge and experiences but often also unearth and perpetuate power imbalances and colonialist behaviours. A decolonial approach to knowledge and experience aims to be equitable among all cultures, to be precise in language and in historical context, to respect all ways of knowing and being, to acknowledge potential power imbalances, to better represent the past, and to generate new knowledge based on these values.

While a desire to know is inherent in all forms of inquiry; decolonial research may begin with a resolve to "unknow", to listen, to welcome indigenous ways, and to demarginalize "other" epistemologies. Beyond being ABOUT decolonization, this conference aims to BE decolonial by remaining inclusive and open to indigenous and individual formats of art and knowledge sharing that are (still) outside the academic "regimes of truth" (to use Michel Foucault's term). During the two days of the conference, participants will engage in a diversity of presentations, workshops, discussions, and social and cultural activities that will explore, inspire, and enrich our knowledge, make new connections across geographic, cultural, methodological, and linguistic boundaries, and will provide us with new tools and strategies for reconciliation and equity.

I am looking forward to meeting and learning with you in Kuala Lumpur

Warm wishes,

Dr. Eldad Tsabary,

ICOAH conference chair"