

Sounding Irish-Kurdish-Circassian Relationalities: Affirming Pluritopic, Imparative Methods

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Abstract

This article proposes a relational, pluritopic approach to coloniality through an inter-imperial reading of Irish, Kurdish, and Circassian histories of struggle. Drawing on decolonial thinking and oral epistemologies, it foregrounds the role of sonorous practices, including Irish-language song, Kurdish dengbêj performance, and Circassian dzeguako traditions, as epistemic practices of resistance. The article argues that dominant anti-colonial and anti-imperial narratives often obscure the experiences of communities whose histories do not align neatly with Eurocentric or statist frameworks, particularly those positioned ambiguously within or at the edges of Europe and West Asia.

By tracing the circulation of colonial technologies, logics, and racial discourses across British and Russian imperial formations, the article develops an “imparative” methodological orientation that resists monolithic historiography and instead attends to interconnected, co-constituted histories of domination. Through this relational lens, the article demonstrates how colonial powers, despite apparent geopolitical opposition, collaboratively produce and refine techniques of control and erasure across different sites.

In bringing these histories into dialogue, the article advances a pluriversal understanding of coloniality that centres the epistemic autonomy of subjugated communities and highlights the ongoing importance of oral and sonorous traditions in resisting historical erasure and sustaining decolonial horizons.

Keywords: Pluritopic, imparative hermeneutics; coloniality; Kurdish studies; Circassian genocide; Irish studies