

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN POST-COLONIALISMS AND CITIZENSHIP

Political Spaces, Representation and Decentralization in the Postcolonial State

Teaching Staff

Tiago Castela and Patrícia Branco

The seminar aims at widening the post-colonial context, which is frequently restricted to the field of literary studies, and thereby integrating some classic objects of the political science, namely the State, the democratic representation, public and political participation and decentralization. It relates to the critical potential of the post-colonial approach, particularly with respect to the critique on knowledge, shared with post-modernism and with some post-structuralism theories, to question and explore the potential of political concepts and organization practices and methods. Therefore, the seminar makes an introduction to some considerable debates from the post-colonial studies, as well as to key issues in the framework of contemporary political analysis. Although its main empirical support is Sub-Saharan Africa, the theoretical amplitude and the use of literature on Europe and Latin-America provide opportunities for participants to establish relations, in comparative perspectives, with their personal research projects.