



SUGAR & DECOLONIALITY 2.0

SESSION I: THE SUBTLE BODY OF THE INSTITUTION





PART I: EMBODYING SANKOFA

UNDERSTANDING THE LINK BETWEEN COLONIALITY/DECOLONIALITY,
SLAVERY, SUGAR & CAPITALISM





THE ORIGINS OF SUGAR PRODUCTION IN MODERNITY



Shared Language

Colonialism describes the presence of colonial administrative structures within countries that are under a dominant rule by an external colonizing political force.

Coloniality denotes “colonial forms of domination after the end of colonial administrations, produced by colonial cultures and structures in the modern/colonial world-system”.

Decoloniality is an epistemic and political project that relates to social, economic and analytic approaches which reject the pillars of Western imperialism— invention of race, control of labor, New World capitalism, modernity.

Modernity refers to a powerful set of cultural, political, economic, and spatial relationships that have fundamentally influenced the nature of social life, the economy, and the use and experience of time and space. Modernity encompasses the last 600 years of global history and generally signals the rise of European or western global power. It includes a few stages.

Race is “the principal and core unit of *racism*” (p. 17). “*Racism* refers to the theory and the practice of applying social, civic, or legal double standard based on ancestry, and to the ideology surrounding such a double standard; a specious classification of human beings created by Europeans (whites) which assigns human worth (value) and social status using ‘white’ as the model of humanity and the height of human achievement for the purpose of establishing and maintaining privilege and power; race as a codified category provided a rationale for the restructured control of labor that was part of the colonial project in North America.

ANCIENT PRE-COLONIAL SUGAR PRODUCTION

10,000 years ago: Sugar distillation begins in Hew Guinea

3,000 years ago: Sugar production moves across the Pacific toward India

Sugar is mostly chewed until India began squeezing it to produce another form.

PRE- TO POST-COLONIAL SUGAR PRODUCTION

632 CE: Islam spreads and prompts discovery of sugar

710 CE: Sugar reeds reach Egypt with peak production from 1000 to 1350 CE

900 to 1500 CE: Iberian peninsula achieves peak sugar production.

1492 to 1502 CE: Early colonial period, Spain expels Moors.



SUGAR AND COLONIALISM: 'WHITE GOLD'

Portugal & Spain
enter the sugar
production business.

1518: Portuguese
colonized Brazil and
began first sugar
plantation.

18th century: The
center of sugar
production shifts to
St. Domingue (Haiti)

19th century: Core of
sugar production shifts
to Cuba & Louisiana,
then Hawaii

COLONIALITY AND
CREATING THE MARGINS:

HOW RACIAL CAPITALISM
WAS CONCEIVED

- Coloniality rests on two Axes:
 - The invention of Race
 - The logic and practices of Capitalism in Modernity



RACIAL CAPITALISM

THE RACIALIZED BODY & CREATING THE MARGINS

Center

- European
- Male
- Affluent (Class)
- Logic/Reason
- The Mind
- Thin

Periphery

- Indigenous
- Female
- Impoverished (Class)
- Emotions/Intuition
- Work with hands (Labor)
- The Body
- Nature
- Fat

Exploitation of the periphery brings benefit to the center and this dynamic creates dependence of the periphery on the center.

(Dussel, Philosophy of Liberation)

HOW MUCH MONEY ARE WE TALKING?



“...by 1860, there were more millionaires (slaveholders all) living in the lower Mississippi Valley than anywhere else in the United States. In the same year, the nearly 4 million American slaves were worth some \$3.5 billion, making them the largest single financial asset in the entire U.S. economy, worth more than all manufacturing and railroads combined. So, of course, the war was rooted in these two expanding and competing economies—but competing over what? What eventually tore asunder America's political culture was slavery's expansion into the Western territories.”



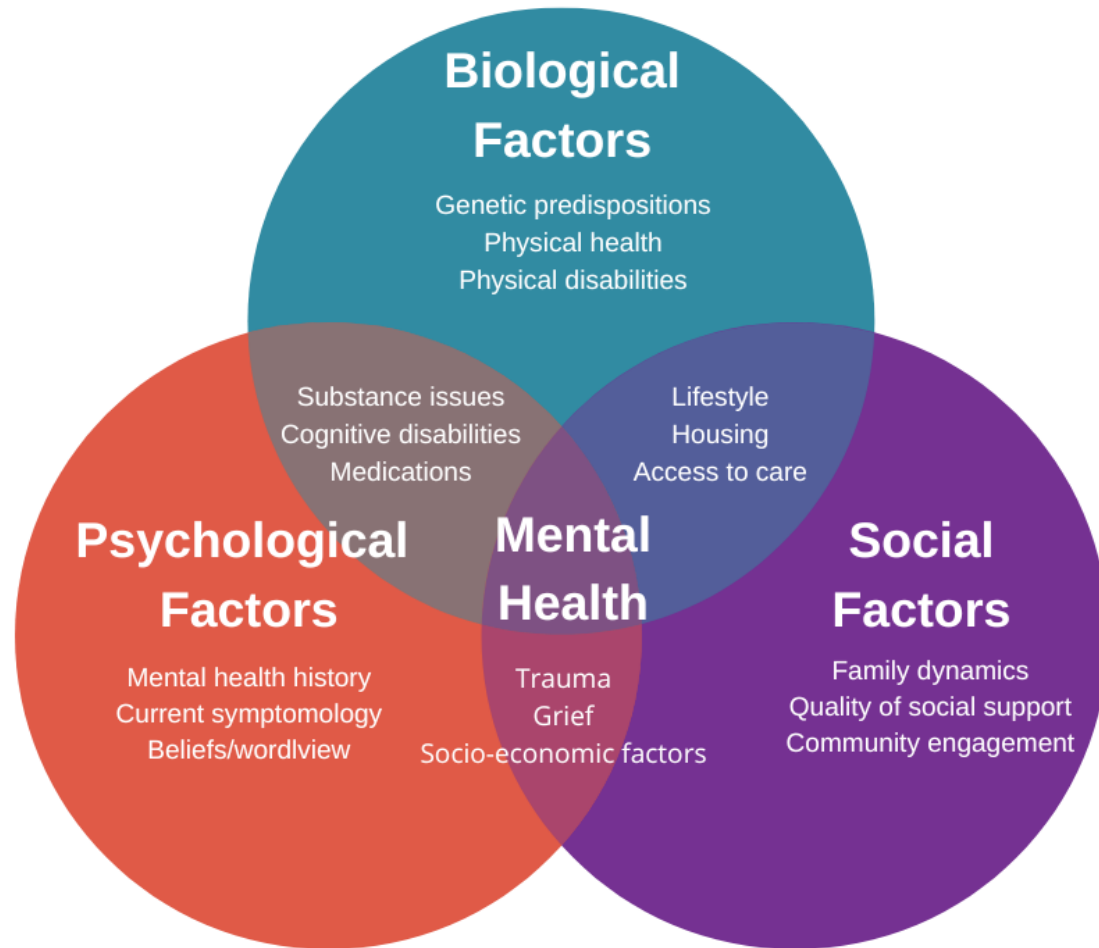
WHAT IS CAPITALISM?

- Capitalism is an economic system based on the private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit. Characteristics central to capitalism include private property, capital accumulation, wage labor, voluntary exchange, an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market.

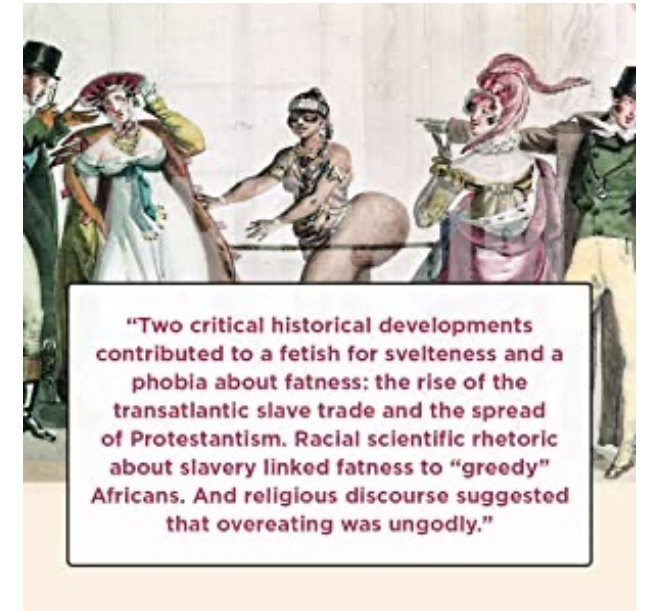
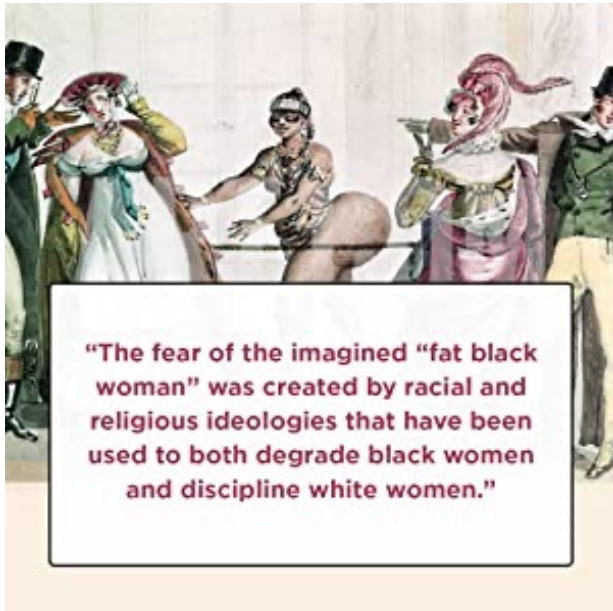
DEPATHOLOGIZING
THE COMMUNITY



Biopsychosocial factors



FEARING THE BLACK BODY: THE RACIAL ORIGINS OF FAT PHOBIA





PART II: BREAKING BREAD & INDIGENOUS MUSINGS





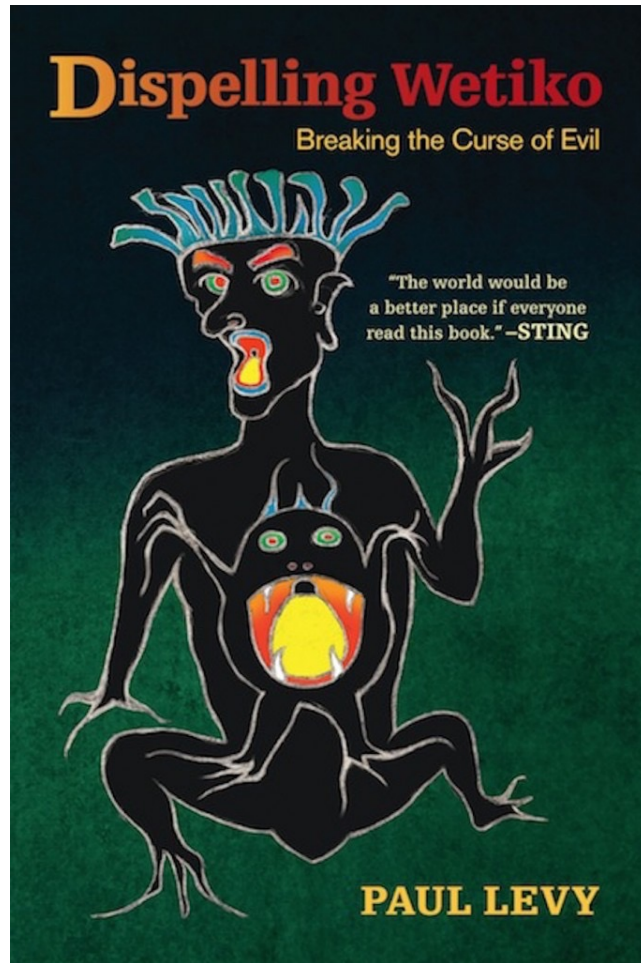
PART III: THE SUBTLE BODY OF THE INSTITUTION

'WETIKO', INDIGENOUS PSYCHOLOGIES AND CULTIVATING DEEPER SENSIBILITIES



The subtle body of the institution:
Animism, Systems Analysis and Social Transformation





INDIGENOUS MIND & PSYCHO-
SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES

*"Greed knows no limits,
Perversion knows no borders,
Arrogance knows no frontier,
Deceit knows no edges."*

CURRENT INDUSTRY TACTICS

*Senator Cory Booker holds a hearing
with the Agriculture Committee on
'Food as Medicine' (2022)*



SUGAR INDUSTRY TACTICS

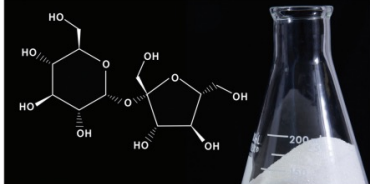



“Coloniality is the underlying logic of the foundation and unfolding of Western civilization from the Renaissance to the present day.”

-Walter Mignolo

“It is maintained alive in books, in the criteria for academic performance, in cultural patterns, in common sense, in the self-image of peoples, in aspirations of self...”

-Nelson Maldonado-Torres

TABLE 1. How Food and Beverage Companies Obscure the Science and Undermine Public Health Policy on Sugar

	<p>Tactic 1: Attacking the science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning to “bury the data” if the science is inconvenient • Threatening to suspend funding to the World Health Organization • Seeking to discredit scientific findings by intimidating the study authors
<p>Why you were born with an instinctive liking for sugar</p> <p>You get only 4 messages from your sense of taste: sweet, salty, sour, and bitter</p> <p>The only one of these you liked from the day you were born was sweet—the flavor of sugar</p> <p>This is the way things should be according to what science</p> 	<p>Tactic 2: Spreading misinformation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featuring misinformation on their websites • Promoting misinformation through their research institutes • Using trade associations, front groups, and PR firms to deceive the public
	<p>Tactic 3: Deploying industry scientists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploiting science communication and blogging communities • Failing to disclose scientists' conflicts of interest • Hijacking scientific language for product promotion
	<p>Tactic 4: Influencing academia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buying credibility through academic scientists • Funding research to support their preconceived positions • Paying academic scientists to persuade other scientists of sugar interests' positions
	<p>Tactic 5: Undermining policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pouring lobbying dollars into sugar policy debates at the federal, state, and local levels • Supporting political candidates in influential positions • Influencing rule making at federal agencies

AFFIRMING THE PROJECT OF REHUMANIZATION

- “I see the relationship between the small and the large/Individual and the Collective”
- “I am responsive and adaptive to this new insight. I do not practice denial”
- I value interdependence and promote agency in self and others
- “This transformation is not linear, but circular”
- “I long to tend the roots of this issue and understand that deep work happens in small places, with collective impact.”
- “I tend big wounds with bigger medicine. Collective trauma insists on collective tending.”

