

Resolution about Decolonization of Higher Education

Approved in Student Parliament 2, 11.03.2019

In the Norwegian context, academics and students should work for nuanced knowledge dissemination and address asymmetrical structures within academia. These structures must be highlighted as well as work on the awareness around our own colonial past must be increased.

In curriculums, lectures, and research there is also a need for diverse academic perspectives, to avoid reproducing a one-sided western understanding of knowledge. One example of this is, for instance, the inclusion of researchers and writers from the area being studied in the Area Studies programs (Områdestudier). Academics from the Global South must also be recognized as co-producers of knowledge. In general, all fields of study should facilitate students with the ability to put their subjects within a social context, be critical, and able to identify unjust power relations and structures. Many students and academics need to become more aware of the perspectives presented within their disciplines as well as a contextual understanding of how knowledge has been produced. In addition, there is also a need to understand why these are dominant and who has access to participate in debates. Without such approaches, Norwegian institutions of higher education strengthen the reproduction of the West's dominance in the knowledge hierarchy, where non-western knowledge dissemination is excluded. Through the awareness over who's knowledge one is building upon, and acknowledgement of non-western researchers' contribution, we can also become part of the decolonization process.

The Student Parliament at NMBU believes that:

- Good education should facilitate and encourage critical and independent thinking
- Students should be able to identify uneven structures and what effects such structures have for students' and academics' conditions for participation and opportunities within academia.
- Institutions of higher education should convey diverse perspectives and knowledge, and not only promote a one-sided Western understanding of knowledge
- Higher education that takes a point of departure in indigenous peoples and afro-descendants' culture and understandings of the world must be recognized

The Student Parliament at NMBU will:

- Raise awareness among students and academics in Norway about the issues of one sided and non-inclusive knowledge dissemination
- Work so that diverse understandings of the world and knowledge is visible in the curriculum, lectures, and research within Norwegian institutions of higher education
- Support students and academics who promote decolonization of higher education and who work to challenge one sided knowledge dissemination, both in Norway and globally.