

Khimaja Connell

Considering the Russia-Ukraine War through a Creolised Lens: Being and Becoming More Than We Are

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“Creolisation is a process and state brought about through confrontations and compromise among coexisting centres of difference, the effect of which is the formation of a new (state of) being. In the formation of the new state, universally beneficial aims preside over principles or prior rules of engagement that would impede achieving the collective aim of (human) flourishing.”

Creolisation as theory and method is used to examine the development of Caribbean society, but Connell argues that the theory presents a model for human sociocultural evolution and that lessons from creolisation are useful for understanding integration, intercultural relations, and intergroup antagonism. The approach signals a departure from traditions that treat knowledge as always being absolute and objective and disaffirms the separation of being, knowing and doing. Through the lens of creolisation, the current geopolitical situation can be viewed as an opportunity to be, know, and do things in a new way: to collectively become more than we are.

Khimaja Connell is assistant lecturer of philosophy at the Department of Language, Linguistics, and Philosophy at the University of the West Indies/Mona in Jamaica. Her research focus centres on creolisation in Caribbean philosophy and the dynamic intersection of metaphysics, epistemology, and existentialism therein. An essential feature of her work is the consideration and inclusion of diverse philosophical perspectives, which are not only rigorous but also, adaptable to the evolving societal and cultural contexts in which it operates.