

PROLOGUE

Amalia Barboza and Mariel Rodríguez

This book brings together contributions from artists, scholars and cultural practitioners who explore ways of decolonizing knowledge through art-based practices and activist strategies. The contributions were originally planned for the conference *De/Colonizing Knowledge*, which took place on 19 and 20 November 2021 at the University of Vienna.

The conference was a cooperation between the University of Vienna, the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, the University of Art and Design Linz and WiGiP (Vienna Society for Intercultural Philosophy) and aimed at exchanging different perspectives and strategies for decolonizing knowledge within and beyond universities. We invited submissions in different formats, with reference to the approaches of decolonial research and practices beyond disciplinary fields of knowledge.

What most of the contributions in this book have in common is that they did not use the typical lecture format, but opted for performative or visual presentations. When the conference took place, we were still in the midst of the Corona pandemic, so many of the artistic presentations, especially those designed as workshops, could not take place. Only a few presentations took place: the exhibition *Strategies of Visibilization* by claudia* sandoval romero (Figs. 9–12), the walk by the collective *Decolonizing in Vienna!* (Figs. 1–8), the screening of the film *I want to be Anna Netrebko!—an Ironic Portrayal of Desire* by Goran Bećirčić and Monica Parii and the performance *Treacherous Movement* by Addressa Miyazato (Figs. 24–30). One of the panels entitled *On the Unsaid*, in which a dialogue on the contribution of artistic practices to the decolonization of knowledge was planned, ultimately had to be cancelled because a participant had fallen ill with corona the day before. The cancelled panel took place online a few weeks later.

In this publication, we want to give these artistic and activist contributions a space, with the awareness that a special approach to the decolonization of knowledge can be found in the “unsaid”. The contributions to the conference, which took place as lectures, will appear in the journal *Polylog*, a central platform for the dialogue between intercultural philosophy and decolonial theories.

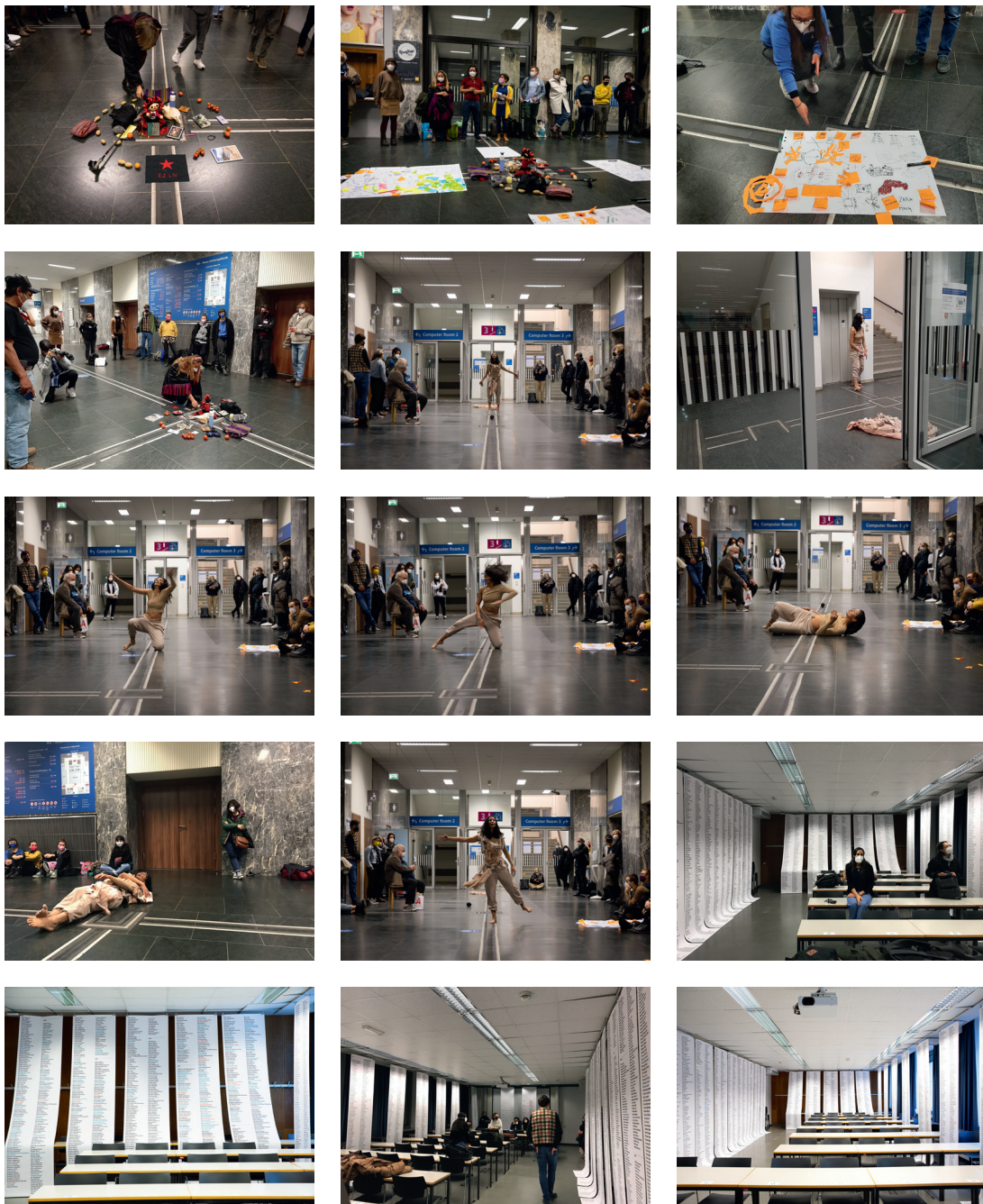
We thank all those who took part in the conference. We thank the participation of the CNI (Congreso Nacional Indígena) (Figs. 13–23), which was travelling in Europe at the time and held a workshop as part of the conference. But above all, we would like to thank all the organizers who made the meeting possible after previous dates had to be cancelled: Christoph Hubatschke, Sushila Mesquita, Ruth Sonderegger and especially Murat Ates, who took the initiative when he proposed the organization of the conference in 2019. Finally, we would like to thank the University of Art and Design Linz for their support in funding the publication.

Vienna, May 2025



Fotos der Tagung *De/Kolonisierung des Wissens* / Photos of the conference *De/Colonizing Knowledge*

Abb./Figs. 1-8: *Decolonizing in Vienna!*, Abb./Figs. 9-12: Vorträge/Lectures, Abb./Figs. 13-19: Workshop von/by the CNI (Congreso Nacional Indígena)



Fotos der Tagung *De/Kolonisierung des Wissens*

Abb./Figs. 20–23: Workshop offered by the CNI (Congreso Nacional Indigena), Mit freundlicher Genehmigung von/Courtesy of Marisel Bongola, Abb./Figs. 24–30: Andressa Miyazato *Treacherous Movement*, Mit freundlicher Genehmigung von/Courtesy of Marisel Bongola, Abb./Figs. 31–34: *Strategies of Visibilization*, Mit freundlicher Genehmigung von/Courtesy of claudia* sandoval romero