

Unsettling Decolonizing Geographies

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Geographers have long reflected on our discipline's colonial history. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous geographers have explored ways to engage Indigenous geographies and have sought new ways of opening and expanding spaces for Indigenous peoples and Indigenous ways of knowing and being in our discipline. Like many other social scientists, geographers have named and framed this work in different ways, from postcolonial to "post"colonial, from anti-colonial to Indigenizing or even anti-racist. Of late, geographers are increasingly working with decolonizing concepts and practices. As documented especially by Indigenous scholars, however, the discipline has yet to achieve much semblance of successful decolonization, especially because so many geographers continue to inhabit or (re)produce colonized spaces. This paper takes as a starting point that, despite the good intentions of geographers, efforts at decolonizing geography are inherently limited because colonization continues to structure the field of geography and the academy more broadly. The paper begins by placing conversations about Indigenous geographies and colonial violence, using this *placement* as a jumping off point for discussing ways geographers have approached decolonization in the past and into the present. The paper then offers critical analysis of decolonization in relation to efforts to engage in interrogating settler colonial power, including the theory and praxis of engaging with Indigeneity and Indigenous peoples and places. Discussing Indigenous knowledges and Indigenous ways of being and living in the world comes next, problematizing how these are often uncoupled or disconnected from the ways decolonization is circulated within more purely conceptual realms, particularly by non-Indigenous peoples, including geographers. The paper ends with a series of cautionaries and suggestions, based especially on the provocations of Indigenous scholars, about ways geographers might unsettle the work we do as geographers in our ongoing efforts at decolonizing our discipline.