

## **Session 1**

**Reading: Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2019**

**Title: Provisional Notes on Decolonizing Research Methodology and Undoing Its Dirty History**

### **Questions**

1. How does Ndlovu-Gatsheni challenge the notion of research as a neutral or objective practice?
2. In what ways is research historically tied to colonial power and domination?
3. Linda Tuhiwai Smith describes “research” as a “dirty word.” How does this concept reshape our understanding of the role of research in colonial and postcolonial contexts?
4. Ndlovu-Gatsheni calls for the “unthinking” of dominant research methodologies. What do you think “unthinking” involves, and how might it open up new possibilities for decolonised knowledge production?
5. In what ways can decolonising research methodology lead to epistemic freedom, as Ndlovu-Gatsheni suggests? How might this shift impact the broader academic and social systems we operate within?

### **Reflective Exercise:**

After our session, take some time to reflect on your own research or academic field. Think about the following questions:

1. In what ways might the methods or ideas in your field come from a colonial past?
2. Do any research practices in your work focus on studying or observing people in a way that feels distant or detached?
3. What small steps can you take to make your research more inclusive, ethical, or respectful of different perspectives?