

# **A Self Redemptive Professional Suicide: A Case For Decolonising Social Work**

An Abstract of the Thesis by  
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To make a case for the decolonization of social work, this work examines the implication of social work in colonization by following a Trouillotian (re)reading of history. This thesis is therefore a (re)telling of social work's history as a colonial practice and participation in that history by actively using and seeking decolonial approaches (Trouillot, M.-R. (2018)). In this (re)telling of history, the center is constantly pivoted so new perspectives may emerge (Collins, P. H. (2000)). Central to this thesis, therefore, is the need to shift the focus away from the evolution of social work as a natural historical progression. Rather, this work pivots the center to the lived experiences of people whose lives, health, suffering, and even death under colonial oppression led to the development of social work knowledge, methods, and practices but whose stories have otherwise disappeared from the history of social work (Downs, J. (2021)).