



## To Make the Unconscious Woke? A Decolonial Psychoanalytic Understanding of How Identity Politics can be Distorted, and How to Work Through it in Treatment

**INSTRUCTOR: DANIEL JOSÉ GAZTAMBIDE, PSY.D.**

**Saturday, May 18, 2024, 1 - 4 pm EDT**

We live in a time of widening political polarization, textured by enduring anxieties around "cancel culture," "identity politics," and "wokeness." Though distinctly undefined, these terms signal a particular orientation toward identity, whose tensions are not only notable in everyday discourse but likely to emerge in the consulting room between patient and therapist. Eschewing current debates and non-definitions of "wokeness" and "identity politics," this presentation will draw on a variety of theoretical, empirical, and clinical sources to present a decolonial perspective that contextualizes these debates within broader socio-economic and political structures. In articulating the underlying sociogenic context of discourse around identity politics and wokeness, how it emerges in patients' lives and the therapeutic relationship becomes more clear, alongside a psychoanalytic stance that engages it within the transference-countertransference matrix. The resulting analytic dialogue creates a space in which identity can be reimagined, in ways that allow room for complexity and play while enlivening our political imagination, moving us beyond the anxieties propelled by the fantasies and realities of "cancel culture" toward new emancipatory possibilities. Clinical cases and supervisory vignettes will be drawn upon to further illustrate these ideas and their relevance for clinical practice.

### Registration Information

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Daniel José Gaztambide, PsyD, is asst. professor of psychology at Queens College, where he directs the Frantz Fanon Lab for Decolonial Psychology. The author of *A People's History of Psychoanalysis: From Freud to Liberation Psychology* and *Decolonizing Psychoanalytic Technique: Putting Freud on Fanon's Couch* (Apr. 2024). With this latest offering Gaztambide reworks psychoanalysis from its foundations to attend to the interpersonal and sociopolitical through a pragmatic, theory guided approach to clinical work. His research explores colonial mentality throughout the Puerto Rican Diaspora and the clinical and political implications of decolonial, intersectional, and critical race theories. His work on the public policy implications of these frameworks have earned him a presidential citation from the American Psychological Association as part of the Taskforce on Strategies for the Elimination of Racism, Discrimination, and Hate. Outside of psychology proper, he is a spoken word poet and member of the Puerto Rican poetry troupe The Titere Poets.