










Neocolonial Approaches & Attitudes










-  'Touristic' or 'shopping' approach to culture
-  Place and people viewed as a laboratory or classroom
-  Ignorance of environmental impact
-  Non-reciprocal planning and implementation
-  Fetish of 'authenticity' or notions of static or exotic culture
-  Homogenous groups / exotic others
-  Traditional ethnocentric approaches
-  Lack of self-reflection
-  Savior complex

DECOLONIZING STUDY ABROAD

MOVING BEYOND EXPLOITATIVE PRACTICES



Decolonizing Approaches & Attitudes

- Reciprocal planning – collaboration with local partners 
- Long-term partnerships with mutual benefits 
- Interactive and mutual learning to engage students and hosts 
- Sustainable approaches that minimize program's footprint 
- Acknowledge our own preconceptions and prejudices about host culture 
- Recognize that cultures are dynamic, ever-changing, and not obligated to adhere to our stereotypes 
- Reflexive program components that push students to interrogate their own values 
- Inclusive and equitable approach to recruitment, promotion, and selection 
- Aspire to bilateral programs that invite host community members back to the home campus 

Decolonization in a Study Abroad Context

To decolonize study abroad programming is to eliminate approaches that are one-sided, ethnocentric, touristic, uncritical, oversimplifying of cultural complexity, and operating within the 'savior complex' in favor of approaches that are respectful, reciprocal, critically self-reflexive, and involve building long-term relationships and seeking to understand and interact holistically with host cultures and individual hosts in all their profound complexities.

Decolonizing of study away programs involves all aspects of our work as advisors, administrators, and faculty program directors.