UNIVERSITÀ
DI PARMA

DIPARTIMENTO DI DISCIPLINE
UMANISTICHE, SOCIALI E DELLE
IMPRESE CULTURALI

RESEARCH DOCTORATE
IN PHILOLOGICAL-LITERARY, HISTORICAL-PHILOSOPHICAL AND ARTISTIC SCIENCES

DISCIPLINARY LABORATORY

TITLE: CULTURAL APPROPRIATION: Theory and Practice

INSTRUCTOR: Diego Saglia / Maria Elena Capitani

CFU: 1 CFU (6 hours)

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Cultural appropriation is an operation and a process based on the use or adoption of elements of one culture by members of another culture, especially when a dominant group takes from a marginalized or colonized group. Cultural appropriation is not just about copying—it's about context, power, and respect. It raises ethical questions about representation, ownership, and history. As such, it can have aesthetic, ethical and legal implications. It is also a highly multivalent phenomenon. As the theorist James O. Young states, not all appropriation is bad, but when it's harmful, misleading, or silences the source culture, it becomes problematic. On these premises, this one-credit laboratory aims to explore theories of cultural appropriation, supplementing them with an analysis of specific applications and instances of actual representational practices.

CALENDAR: 9 April 2026 (both in presence and online): 9:30 – 12:30

SUGGESTED READINGS:

James O. Young, *Cultural Appropriation and the Arts* (2008)

James O. Young and Conrad G. Brunk (eds), *The Ethics of Cultural Appropriation* (2009)

Vanessa Corredera et al (eds), *Shakespeare and Cultural Appropriation* (2023)

Julie Sanders, *Adaptation and Appropriation* (2015)