Here is a fine articulation of the social and political constructions that have been central to the removal and disqualification of some human beings from the human family. It is an important and timely contribution to the field of decolonial studies, especially now when African scholars are grappling with the need to decolonise the space and the mind.

— KEZIA BATISAI, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg

William Mpolu and Melissa Steyn have done us all a great service in organizing this wonderful community of intellectuals in this thought-provoking collection in which the question of decolonising the human is marked by critical, embodied academic practice. What better to say when one holds in one’s hands a work that proverbially needed to be done?

— LEWIS R. GORDON, Professor and Head of Philosophy, University of Connecticut

Decolonising the Human examines the ongoing project of constituting ‘the human’ in light of the durability of coloniality and the persistence of multiple oppressions. The ‘human’ emerges as a deeply political category, historically constructed as a scarce existential resource. Once weaponised, it allows for the social, political and economic elevation of those who are centred within its magic circle, and the degradation, marginalisation and immiseration of those excluded as the different and inferior Other, the less than human.

Speaking from Africa, a key site where the category of the human has been used throughout European modernity to control, exclude and deny equality of being, the contributors use decoloniality as a potent theoretical and philosophical tool, gesturing towards a liberated, pluriversal world where human difference will be recognised as a gift, not used to police the boundaries of the human. Here is a transdisciplinary critical exploration of a wide range of subjects, including history, politics, philosophy, sociology, anthropology and decolonial studies.

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