

Every once in a while, IRAA comes together for gatherings centered around food and conversations, where the atmosphere is warm, and everyone's senses—especially smiles—are immediately engaged. I was fortunate to be part of a discussion that explored the concept of decolonization, hosted by film maker Dilman who runs a space called Dilstories film studio. Decolonization has been a topic of interest to me for some time.

The conversation revolved around what decolonization means, why it is essential to explore and it's about expanding our imagination and curiosity beyond the limitations imposed by colonial structures. The discussion encouraged us to rethink narratives, knowledge systems, and cultural expressions that have been overshadowed or erased.

One question from the session stood out to me the most: Why is African mysticism not celebrated as it should be? This question sparked deep reflection on how colonial histories have marginalized indigenous spiritualities and philosophies. It reinforced the idea that it is up to us—storytellers, artists, and thinkers—to reclaim and share these narratives. By doing so, we can reconnect our communities to their heritage and address the gaps in knowledge that contribute to cultural disconnection.

The discussion was thought-provoking, leaving me with a renewed sense of responsibility to help inform and inspire others through these stories.

