## [“The World is Shot Through With Crime”: Crime Fiction in the Postcolonial World](https://www.captivatingcriminalitynetwork.net/blog/the-world-is-shot-through-with-crime-crime-fiction-in-the-postcolonial-world)

‘The World is Shot through with time’ is an argumentative text and it is written in form of article; it is written by Molly Slavin and was published on 20/09/2017.

The article is arranged into 6 sequences. Right from the title the reader can understand that the keywords are crime, fiction and postcolonial.

The thesis of the article, as the reader can understand after reading the title, is that in order to understand the contemporary crime, reader should use the post-colonial lens.

In the first part of the article, the journalist tells about a cruel and brutal episode; Marlow(that is a Joseph Conrad’s novel character) was in Africa and saw the terrible conditious of the colonized people, that were slaves. The colonists many times enslave the natives because they feared that colonizing people could rebel. Moreover, the colonists imposed their language, their traditions, their culture and last but not least they didn’t accept the otherness. The vision of the colonists is based on the imperialism and they use their physical strength to get what they want.

The colonists wanted to submit the natives because they were more technological, developed and educate than the natives; they considered the Europe as the centre of the world.

European law has classified the colonized as criminals. This indicates to the reader one of the main injustices of colonialism: the language of crime has been used to consolidate the imperial project and the European domain. The reader can find in the text an important Fannon’s quotation and he tells that
for centuries, capitalists have behaved like real war criminals in the underdeveloped world.

Yadav tells that “The world is shot through with crime, riddled with it, rotted by it,” indeed
Pakistanis and Afghans run a twenty billion dollar heroin business. The reader can understand that after the fall of the English Empire, begins an other difficult experience for the post-colonial states, of corruption and crimes due to instable governments.

To understand how the depictions of crimes can be linked and understood through imperial stories and colonial legacies the reader can think of Exit West.

Exit West, a novel of the modern refugee and migrant crisis, is not found in "crime" or "mystery" in a bookstore. The text shows that immigrants can be inclined to commit crimes, that migrating without documents is a criminal act.

In Exit West, the reader can understand that Nadia is searching for a new identity, while Saeed wants to maintain his identity of origin. Nadia is more open to the changes, indeed she wanted to creat a relation for example with the Nigerians, while Saeed wanted to remain alone.

Mohisn Hamid writes in a simple English and it could be considered a new English, that is affected from the native language.

He writes long paragraphs that seems countries and the full stops are the borders, because he follows the Eastern thought. The writers uses narrative strategies, like magic realism.

Mohisin Hamid uses language as a vehicle of expression; the novel doesn’t follow a linear path of cause-effect, but adopts time space jumps to transmit a message. Mohsin Hamid wants to trigger the sentiments and the emotions of the reader and he wants to convey that human beings change throughout experience through time. Indeed we are all migrants and all people could be in the conditious of Saeed and Nadia.

To understand contemporary fictions, we must look at them through a lens that combines the concepts of crime, imperialism and postcoloniality.