

Call for Papers

European Conference on Politics and Gender (ECPG)

7-9 July 2021, University of Ljubljana (or virtual)

The Quest for Racial and Social Justice in Political Science:
The Potential of Critical Race Theory

Abstract

Critical race theory (CRT) began as a movement in the United States' legal field during the 1970s to examine how race, racism, and power are connected. Its application has been widely used in education and now in areas such as political science. Looking at the work of Derrick Bell, Richard Delgado, Kimberle Crenshaw, Angela Harris, Daniel Solorzano, to name a few, CRT has been viewed as a quest for social justice through academic scholarship. As a theoretical lens, it aims to get to the root of inequalities by evaluating systemic racism. Recently, CRT was targeted through a United States Presidential Executive Order, barring all federal work from using CRT in their quest towards equality through racial justice. Similarly, CRT has increasingly been under attack by Conservative Members of Parliament in the United Kingdom, such as Minister for Equalities Kemi Badenoch. In the European context, characterized by silence on race as a social construct, CRT has often been rejected as non-relevant. Nonetheless, there is a growing literature applying CRT and its tenets to Europe and globally. This panel aims to explore the potential of CRT as a framework for political science and gender research. We welcome papers that reflect on the theoretical, methodological, and normative implications of using CRT in political science, gender studies, and beyond. How can an engagement with CRT and its tenets shift the discussion in the field of political science towards racial and social justice?

Some CRT tenets include:

- Intersectionality
- The normalcy of racism in everyday life
- Commitment to a historical and contextualized analysis including colonial histories
- Critique of liberal colorblindness and a commitment to racial consciousness
- Valuing experiential knowledge through stories and counterstories

Please send your paper **title** and an **abstract** of max. 500 words, as well as your contact details and institutional affiliation (if applicable) to laura.westerveen@vub.be and jessica.montegna@gmail.com by **1 December 2020** at the latest. We will let you know by 4 December 2020 if your abstract has been selected for our panel proposal.