

# **PROGRAM: Seasonal School “Contemporary forms of racism and discrimination”**

## **Practicalities**

- Timing: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of September to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2021
- Place: Ghent, FPPW, Henri Dunantlaan 1 (take care, the main red/grey building is Henri Dunantlaan 2, this is the smaller building across the street)
  - Auditorium 5 (first floor)
  - Practicum 0.1 (ground floor)

## Day 1: Conceptualizing racism and discrimination

**09.00 - 9.30:** Registration

**09.30 – 10.30:** Introduction to the seasonal school by the Scientific Committee & round of introductions of PhD participants

**11.00 -12.45:** Visit museum STAM with Tina De Gendt ‘Hidden histories in a super diverse city’

**12.45 -14.00:** Lunch break

**14.00 - 16.00:** Contemporary conceptualizations of racism and discrimination across the social sciences

**14.00 - 15.00:** Keynote speech by **Patrick Simon** (Demography, Senior Researcher, Institut National d’Etudes Démographiques, France)

Title: Measuring discrimination and racism: methodological, epistemological and political debates

Abstract: Measuring racism and discrimination is not straight forward because of the subtle and often invisible processes of biases and unfair treatment. Therefore the methods to capture and measure these complex phenomenon are multifold and rely on different approaches and sometimes definition of racism and discrimination. One additional problem in the case of ethnic and racial discrimination relates to the categories by which population groups exposed or victims should be described. Statistics, and especially censuses, reflect legitimate representations of the population of the societies and they have different ways to picture ethnicity and race. Countries can be divided into those that collect colour-blind statistics and those that produce ethno-racial statistics. The strategies behind the choices of whether or not to collect ethno-racial statistics can be linked to philosophies of equality and framings of diversity which are grounded in histories, political traditions, legal prohibitions, and political mobilisation. This presentation will link together the debates about classification and their consequences in terms of measuring racism and discrimination, as well as implementing antiracist and antidiscrimination policies. It will provide an overview of the debates and controversies about ethno-racial statistics which articulate both political and methodological arguments that will be summarised and discussed.

**15.00 - 16.00:** Keynote speech **Victoria Esses** (Psychology Professor, University of Western Ontario, Canada)

Title: Prejudice and discrimination toward immigrants: A psychological approach

*Abstract:* In this presentation I will discuss psychological perspectives and research on prejudice and discrimination toward immigrants. I will begin by presenting an overview of the different forms of prejudice and discrimination that psychologists study (e.g., explicit versus implicit; blatant versus subtle) and how this can be applied to understanding prejudice and discrimination toward immigrants. I will then describe what we know about the drivers of prejudice and discrimination toward immigrants, including experimental research in this area. I will also discuss psychological research on the dehumanization of immigrants, including what promotes dehumanization and the consequences for behaviour. I will conclude by discussing some potential future research directions, including the need for research linking discrimination against immigrants to anti-immigrant prejudice, as well as research needed to develop policies and practices to reduce prejudice and discrimination.

16.15: Break

16.15 - 16.55: Presentation by internal expert

16:15 - 16:55: Laura Westerveen (Political Science PhD, VUB)

17.00 - 18.00: Interactive panel discussion with Patrick Simon, Laura Westerveen & moderator(s) Sorana & Pieter-Paul

## Day 2: Historical overview: how have forms of racism and discrimination transformed?

**09.30 - 11.30:** Racism through the lenses of postcolonial and decolonial theory

**09.30 - 10.30:** Keynote Speech : **Ipek Demir** (Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Leeds, UK)

Title: Amnesia, Racism and White Identity Politics

Abstract: This talk will examine the historical roots of racism. Studies of racism in Europe have typically taken eugenics and the horrific racism of Nazi Germany as their main starting points. Whilst this is an important aspect of understanding racism, it is far from complete or adequate. We need to also interrogate Eurocentrism and colonialism historically, and its current manifestations. Eurocentrism sees something extremely special and distinct about Europe, its people. Locating the rise of Europe from early modern periods onwards as a sole particularity of Europe, it fails to recognise that the modern world is shaped by European colonialism and empires and thus also via others' material and intellectual contributions (Bhambra 2007). It sees the rest of the world as external to this miracle that is Europe. It sees colonialism as spatially and temporally distant (Demir 2022) as either something which happened in the past, and as having not much bearing on Europe or us today, or spatially distant, i.e. over there somewhere else which has no bearing on Europe/the West. This talk will think through the consequences of this and its contemporary manifestations, including how it ignores the contributions of 'others' to modernity, reproduces new racisms, backlash and White identity politics, racialized migration regimes, and acts as a justification of hard and violent European borders.

**10.30 - 11.30:** Keynote speech: **Bambi Ceuppens** (VUB fellow and scientific coordinator AfricaMuseum, Tervuren)

Title: Racism, decoloniality and postcolonial theory: colonial traces in the public domain

Abstract: Few people owe up to being guilty of racist actions and thoughts; many scoff at the idea of decoloniality, while postcolonial theory is at most known by academics. This lecture will look at these three concepts through a discussion on a topic that is, in the public opinion, most closely related to questions of decoloniality: colonial

monuments, by extending the question to different types of colonial traces in the public domain, with a focus on Brussels.

**11.45 - 13.00:** Interactive panel discussion with Ipek Demir, Bambi Ceuppens, prof. dr. Elisabeth Bekers (Literature Professor, VUB) and moderator Lieselot De Wilde (Historical pedagogy, UGent)

**13.00 - 14.15:** Lunch break

**14.15 - 15. 45:** Participatory workshop on decolonization

Members of the Scientific committee and in-house experts (Nikolett Szelei and Giacomo Orsini, Post-doctoral researchers, Social Work, UGent) will moderate the workshop.

**16.00 – 17.30:** PhD Student (poster) presentations of their research

**20.00 - 21.30:** Public event: "White Privilege and Racism in Higher Education"

During this public event, one of the confirmed keynote speakers, **prof. Kalwant Bhopal**, director at the Centre for Research in Race & Education (CRRE) at University of Birmingham and author of the book "White privilege: The myth of a post-racial society" (2020) will give a thought-provoking lecture on how higher education institutions reinforce white privilege and continue to marginalise ethnic minorities through structural and institutional racism.

Kalwant Bhopal's lecture will examine the experiences of Black and minority ethnic staff and students in higher education. It will provide statistical data on staff and students, outline policy making and examine how white privilege continues to perpetuate in higher education. The talk will draw on empirical data with Black and minority ethnic academics to examine how they experience processes of racism, exclusion and marginalisation. It will explore how higher education institutions can move forward to create a social justice and inclusive agenda.

The event will be fully online.

**20.00:** Welcome and introduction

**20.10:** Lecture by prof. **Kalwant Bhopal**

**20.40:** Discussion with Kalwant Bhopal, representatives from student organisations and researchers: Fatma Zehra Çolak (researcher UA), Stéphanie De Maesschalck (UGent), Latifah Abdou (WeDecolonizeVUB) & Ines El Jasouli (Umoja Ghent). The moderator will be Anissa Boujdaini.

**21.10:** Q&A with the audience

### Day 3: Spheres of discrimination I : Labour market and housing

**09.15 - 11.15:** How to measure and explain racism and ethnic discrimination on the labour market ?

**9.15 - 10.15:** Keynote speech : **Didier Ruedin** (Senior Researcher in Migration and Population Studies, Université Neuchatel, Switzerland)

Title: Theories and measurement of racism and ethnic discrimination

Abstract: This talk will provide an overview of theories of racism and ethnic discrimination, with a special focus on how we can measure disparities and discrimination in empirical research. By drawing on studies on discrimination in different market situations (labour market, housing market, politics) these considerations will be illustrated and possible future research lines discussed.

**10.15 - 11.15:** Keynote speech : **Arnfinn Haagensen Midtbøen** (Professor of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo, Norway)

Title: Racial discrimination in hiring: Comparative perspectives

Abstract: What can we reliably say about trends in discrimination across time and between countries? This talk focuses on field experimental studies of hiring discrimination across the globe, which mounts up to more than 140 field experimental studies of discrimination against ethno-racial minority groups in 30 countries over the time period 1969-2019. The systematic review reveals that racial and ethnic discrimination is a pervasive international phenomenon that has hardly declined over time, although levels vary significantly over countries. Building on key conclusions from the literature, the talk also includes a discussion of various theories of discrimination, both at the individual and the contextual level, concluding that institutional rules regarding race and ethnicity in hiring can have an important influence on levels of discrimination.

**11.30 - 12.45:** Interactive panel discussion: with Didier Ruedin, Arnfinn Haagensen Midtbøen and Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (Sociology Professor, VUB).

Different disciplines, different measurement methods and explanations of labour market discrimination?

**12.45 - 14.00:** Lunch break

*14.00 - 15.45*: Panel: Housing and labour market discrimination : individual and contextual variation.

Presentations by two in-house experts: Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe & Eva Derous (Psychology Professor, UGent). Discussant: Jihad Van Puymbroeck (Hand in Hand) followed by a discussion and Q&A with the audience.

*16.00 - 17.30*: PhD Student presentations of their research

## Day 4: Spheres of discrimination II: Education and justice system

**09.30 - 11.00:** PhD Student presentations of their research

**11.15 - 12.30:** Participatory workshop on measuring and explaining racism and discrimination in the justice system with novel methods

introduced by a presentation by in-house expert Olga Petintseva (Law and Criminology Professor, UGent).

**12.30 - 13.30:** Lunch break

**13.30 - 16.00:** How to measure and explain racism and ethnic discrimination in education and justice system ?

**13.30 - 13.45:** Introduction by **Peter Stevens** (Chair, Sociology Professor, UGent)

**13.45 - 14.45:** Keynote speech : **Kalwant Bhopal** (Professor in Education, University of Birmingham, UK)

Title: Black and minority ethnic experiences in higher education: policy making, social justice and white privilege

Abstract: This keynote will examine the experiences of Black and minority ethnic staff and students in higher education. It will provide statistical data on staff and students, outline policy making and examine how white privilege continues to perpetuate in higher education. The talk will draw on empirical data with Black and minority ethnic academics to examine how they experience processes of racism, exclusion and marginalisation. It will explore how higher education institutions can move forward to create a social justice and inclusive agenda.

**14.45 - 15.45:** Keynote speech : **Matthew Clair** : (Sociology and Law Professor, Stanford University, USA) : On racial and class inequalities in the criminal legal system

Title: Institutional Discrimination in American Criminal Courts

Abstract: The number of Americans arrested, brought to court, and incarcerated has skyrocketed in recent decades. Criminal defendants come from all races and economic walks of life, but they experience punishment in vastly different ways. How and why is the criminal court process unequal along race and class lines? This talk draws on findings from Matthew Clair's book *Privilege and Punishment: How Race and Class Matter in Criminal Court* (Princeton University Press, 2020). Drawing on fieldwork and interviews in the Boston, Massachusetts, court system, he shows that lawyers and judges often silence, coerce, and punish disadvantaged defendants when they try to learn their legal rights

and advocate for themselves. These dynamics reveal how unwritten institutional and organizational norms devalue the exercise of legal rights among the disadvantaged, and that ensuring effective legal representation is no guarantee of justice. He concludes that race- and class-based institutional discrimination of this kind is a fundamental feature of the criminal courts. Because such institutional discrimination is viewed as legally and morally unproblematic by empowered court authorities, rectifying such discrimination requires an abolitionist approach to the criminal courts.

*15.45 - 16.00: Break*

*16.00 - 17.00: Interactive panel discussion: with Kalwant Bhopal, Matthew Clair and In-house expert/moderators Peter Stevens (Sociology Professor, UGent) & Georgia du Plessis (University of Antwerp)*

## Day 5: Resisting and combating racism and discrimination

**09.15 - 11.15:** Participatory Workshop on Anti-racism activism by **Gia Abrassart**

**11.30 - 13.00:** PhD Student presentations of their research

**13.00 - 15.30:** Lunch break

**15.30 - 16.45:** Everyday racism: practices, resistances and struggles of racialized and ethnicized groups

Keynote speech: **Michèle Lamont** (Sociology Professor, Harvard University, USA)

Title: New Engines of Hope after the American Dream Finding Recognition in the New Gilded Age

Abstract: In the context of COVID, growing inequality, and political polarization, I am writing a book that diagnoses some of the current challenges facing Americans and offers a way forward. This is achieved by drawing on survey data and interviews with boomers, Gen Zs, and leading “agents of change,” who are producing new narratives in entertainment, comedy, advocacy, religion, art, journalism, impact investing, and other fields of activity.

Neoliberal scripts of self, based on criteria emphatically centered on material success, competitiveness, individualism, and self-reliance, are increasingly associated with poor mental health across classes. Agents of change offer alternatives: they are promoting narratives of hope that emphasize inclusion, diversity, sustainability and authenticity – as part of an increasingly salient “politic of recognition” that broadens cultural citizenship and thus affects exclusion and inequality.

I aim to understand how their influence takes shape through “recognition chains” that mobilize philanthropy, new social movements, social media, and more. Drawing on collaborative papers, I also analyze how Gen Zs make sense of growing inequality and COVID, and find/produce hope during this period of high uncertainty by drawing on available cultural repertoires.

**16.45 - 17.45:** Interactive panel discussion: introduced by reflections on the keynote speeches from in-house expert Serena D'Agostino (Post-doc, VUB) and moderator Robin Vandevordt (UGent)

**17.45:** social event - goodbye drink

### List of participants

Apers Hanne	UA
Bougrine Jasmien	VUB
Chen Lin	VUB
D'hondt Fanny	UGent
De Pau Marjolein	UGent
Duveau Camille	UCLouvain
Fischer Allison L.	KITLV
Ghekiere Abel	UGent/VUB
Hagenaars Marloes	UGent
Huang Yijia	VUB
Kelley Aimee	UGent
Kwame Sarfo-Adu Joseph	UGent
Lembrechts Sara	UGent
Martiniello Billie	VUB
Mertens Mahlu	UGent
Prasad Adhikari Sacré Hari	UGent
Said Salem Ruwayda	UGent
Say Kana Nancy	UGent
Sultana Rizvi Syeda	UA
Trenson Roman	VUB
Van Alboom Ischa	UGent
van den Bogaard Roos-Marie	UGent
Van Landeghem Ella	UA
Wets Camille	UGent