

## Sociology of Race and Racism

20 credits

First Term 2017

Education Building, room M37

Mondays, 1.00-3.45pm

Lecturer: Dr Giovanni Picker



A Conversation of Girls (Two Girls with their Black Servant), 1770 by Joseph Wright of Derby

Module Leader: Dr Giovanni Picker

Department of Social Policy and Social Work

Muirhead Tower, Room 935 - **Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12.00-13.00 (except Oct 3)**

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School/Institute Administrative: Emily Barrett
College Administrative: Caroline Hetherington

## Sociology of Race and Racism

*The paradox of education is precisely this - that as one begins to become conscious one begins to examine the society in which he is being educated.*

James Baldwin

### The module

Sociology has been looking at race and racism since the second half of the 19th century. This module aims at the critical understanding of race as one of the most deep-rooted principles organizing both the material and the symbolic structures of society in hierarchies of moral worth. Racism, as coterminous and direct extension of race, will be scrutinized in its most evident manifestations, from everyday circumstances to urban inequalities, textured by global capitalism. Race and racism will be presented and discussed from a historical and comparative sociological perspective, detecting both a comprehensive genealogy of racism in the various imperial colonial projects, and the key and intersectional forms of racist exclusion in the dominant manifestations of contemporary neoliberalism (e.g. recent global wars; financialization of the economy, and the pluralization and privatization of detention).

The seminar starts with a theoretical and historical overview of race and racism, and continues with a series of specific themes including “The racial state”; “Everyday racism”; “Racism and the city”, “Intersectionality”, and “(Post-)Race, racism and neoliberalism”. Parallel to these emphases runs an in-depth examination of European colonialism, which is developed in every class by watching and discussing a brief excerpt of the 3-hour BBC documentary "Racism: A history" (2007), directed by Paul Tickell. Europe as a historical and sociological formation will be a privileged focus throughout.

Module outcomes
By the end of the module students should be able to:
Form a theoretically and historically grounded understanding of the main ways in which race and racism operate
Outline and critically discuss different dimensions of inequalities, including class, gender and race in understanding different social structures and agencies

Being able to critically deconstruct generalizations from specific racist manifestations to grand pictures, and to gain the ability of dissecting the contextual specificities of racism

Critically analyse and recognize the modalities of oblivion, neglect and denial of race, especially in post-WWII Europe, and yet to understand why many of us have a hard time accepting the centrality of race in society

Critically analyse and historicize the making of Europe as a hegemonic global power

Form a solid, contextualized and critical understanding of the ways in which racism can be opposed, both in theory and in practice

## **Teaching**

This course requires attentive and critical reading, as well as a disposition to elaborate each topic through actively engaging in in-class discussions. Motivation is essential. While you should come to class having read the two mandatory readings, optional readings are highly recommended. The more we all read the more engaging, pleasant and fruitful our discussions will be.

The seminar is organized neither as a structured lecture series nor as a free-floating seminar. Rather, at the beginning of each class the lecturer will provide a background summary of the theme, before starting a collective discussion. You are not expected to already have knowledge on the subject, but only background knowledge in any of the social sciences and the readiness to read and engage in discussions. Two readings per class are mandatory, other readings are recommended. You will be asked to initiate discussions on the readings by bringing to the group your critical question(s).

During class mobile phones have to remain switched off. Failure to do so may affect your final grade. There will be a 15min break in which you can use your phone.

## **Staff**

Giovanni Picker is Senior Marie Curie Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham School of Social Policy (Institute for Research into Superdiversity), and coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe and Russia of the Black Europe Summer School (Amsterdam). Before coming to Birmingham, he was researching and teaching in Germany, Hungary and Russia. His research and teaching interests include race and

ethnicity and urban studies, with particular foci on the state, spatial segregation, urban planning, colonialism, and ethnography. Giovanni authored *Racial Cities: Governance and the Segregation of Romani People in Urban Europe* [Routledge, 2017] and co-edited *Racialized Labour in Romania: Spaces of Marginality at the Periphery of Global Capitalism* [Palgrave, forthcoming 2018]. His publications can be accessed at <https://bham.academia.edu/GiovanniPicker>. He regularly tweets @GioPicker.

## Module Timetable

Date	Room	Topic
02/10/17		W1 - Introduction
09/10/17		W2 - Theoretical Articulations
16/10/17		W3 - Historical Overview
23/10/17		W4 - Postcolonialism
30/10/17		W5 - Intersections of Race, Gender and Class
06/11/17		W6 - Everyday Racism
13/11/17		W7 - READING WEEK - NO CLASS
20/11/17		W8 - The Racial State
27/11/17		W9 - Racial Cities
04/12/17		W10 - The Post-racial
11/12/17		W11 - Europe - Anti-Roma and Anti-Black Racism

## Assessment

Summative Assessments: 4000 Essay designed to assess knowledge and critical engagement with the class materials, readings and discussions. Your selection of the topic specific aspect(s) must be **agreed with the module leader by Week 11** at the latest. The written assignment must be **submitted via CANVAS by 1pm on Wednesday, January 31st, 2018.**

Reassessment: 4000 Essay designed to assess knowledge and critical engagement with the class materials, readings and discussions.
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Formative Assessment: In-class discussion; Two questions per reading (to be submitted to the lecturer [G.Picker@bham.ac.uk](mailto:G.Picker@bham.ac.uk) one day before class)

Please make sure your assignments are informed by a wide range of reading and NOT just websites. In particular journal articles are easy to access via e-journals and offer a range of perspectives on race and racism. Examples of journals are *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Race and Class*; *Du Bois Review*; *Patterns of Prejudice*; *American Sociological Review*; *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*; *Sociology*. Note this is not an exclusive list. Articles on race and racism can be found in almost every social science journal. In addition, the books that are assigned and recommended in the course are a very important source - reading entire books provides you with very solid knowledge for writing your essay.

Plagiarism - i.e. taking anything from an author, including ideas, expressions and words without acknowledging this in your own paper - won't be tolerated.

## **Week 1**

**Introduction + module organization + film, *Absent from the Academy*, (Nathan E. Richards, 2013)**

*Highly recommended:*

*Racism: A History* (Paul Tickell, 2007) - on Youtube.

Tuhiwai Smith, Linda. 1999. "Introduction". In *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London: Zed Books.

Murji, Karim. 2005. "Race", in Tony Bennett, Lawrence Grossberg, Meaghan Morris (eds) *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, Malden, Oxford and Victoria: Blackwell.

Morning, Ann. 2008. "Ethnic classification in global perspective: A cross-national survey of the 2000 census round". *Population Research and Policy Review*, 27(2): 239-272.

## **Week 2**

**Theoretical Articulations**

*Mandatory:*

1. Hall, Stuart. 2002[1980]. "Race, articulation and societies structured in dominance", in Essed, P. and Goldberg, D.T. (eds). 2002. *Race Critical Theories*. Malden (MA) and Oxford: Blackwell.
2. Brah, Avtar. 1996. "Chapter 7: Re-framing Europe: Gendered racisms, ethnicities and nationalisms in contemporary Western Europe". In *Cartographies of Diaspora: Contesting Identities*. London and New York: Routledge.

*Recommended:*

Goldberg, David Theo. 1993. "Modernity, Race, and Morality". *Cultural Critique*, 24 (Spring): 193-227.

Bonilla-Silva, E. 1997. "Rethinking racism: toward a structural interpretation." *American Sociological Review*. 63(3): 465-480.

Mills, Charles. 1997. "Introduction". In *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Murji, Karim and Solomos, John. 2015. "Introduction: Situating the Present". In *Theories of Race and Ethnicity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Solomos, John 2013. *Theorizing the Other: Race, Ethnicity and Social Theory*. London: Routledge.

**Week 3**

**Historical Overview**

*Mandatory*

1. Fredrickson, George M. "Chapter 1: Religion and the Invention of Racism". In *Racism: A Short History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

2. Robinson, Cedric. 1983. "Chapter 1. "Racial Capitalism: The nonobjective character of capitalist development". In *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press.

### *Recommended*

Foucault, Michel. 2003. "Chapter 11. Lecture from March 17, 1976". In *Society Must be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France*. Picador: New York.

Ranjit, Guha. 1987. "Preface" In R. Guha, *Dominance Without Hegemony: History and Power in Colonial India*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Wacquant. Loic. 2002. "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration". *New Left Review*, 13: 41-60.

Solomon, John. 2003[1989] "Chapter 2. Historical Background and Context". In *Race and Racism in Britain* (third edition). Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Zinn, Howard. 1995. "Chapter 2. Drawing the Color Line". In *A People's History of the United States: 1492 - Present*. New York: HarperCollins.

Arendt, Hannah. 1944. "Race-Thinking before Racism". *The Review of Politics*, 6(1):36-73.

## **Week 4**

### **Postcolonialism**

#### *Mandatory*

1. Bhabra, Gurminder. 2007. "Sociology and Postcolonialism: Another 'Missing' Revolution?" *Sociology*, 41(5): 871-884.
2. Fanon, Franz. 2004[1961]. "On Violence". In *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press.

### *Recommended*

Go, Julian. 2013. "For a Postcolonial Sociology", *Theory and Society*, 13, 1(42): 25-55.

Césaire, Aime. 1972[1955]. *Discourse on Colonialism* (Translated by Joan Pinkham). New York and London: Monthly Review Press.

Said, Edward. 1979. "Imaginative Geography and Its Representations: Orientalizing the Oriental". In *Orientalism*. London: Penguin Book.

Bhabha, Homi. "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse." *October*, (28):125–133.

## **Week 5**

### **Intersections of Race, Gender and Class**

#### *Mandatory*

1. hooks, bell. 2000. "Introduction" and "Chapter 10. White Poverty: The Politics of Invisibility". In *Where We Stand: Class Matters*. New York: Routledge.
2. Wing, Adrien K. 2015. "Critical race feminism". In Murji, Karim and Solomos, John (eds) *Theories of Race and Ethnicity: Contemporary Debates and Perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### *Recommended*

Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color". *Stanford Law Review*. 43(6): 1241-1299.

El-Tayeb, Fatima. 2012. "'Gays who cannot properly be gay': Queer Muslims in the neoliberal European city". *European Journal of Women Studies*, 19(1): 79-95.

Ahmed, Sara. 2000. "Introduction". In *Strange Encounters: Embodied Others in the Postcoloniality*. London: Routledge.

## **Week 6**

### **Everyday Racism**



### *Mandatory*

1. Essed, Philomena. 1992. "Chapter 1. Toward an Integration of Micro and Macro Dimensions of Racism". In *Understanding Everyday Racism: An Interdisciplinary Theory*. London and New Delhi: Sage.
2. Kilomba, Grada. 2006. "Chapter 5. Space Politics". In *Plantation Memories: Episodes in Everyday Racism*. Münster: Unrast Verlag.

### *Recommended*

Wekker, Gloria. 2016. "Chapter 1. 'Suppose she Brings a Big Negro Home': Case Study of Everyday Racism". In *White Innocence: Paradoxes of Colonialism and Race*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Lindsay Pérez Huber, Daniel G. Solorzano. 2015. "Visualizing Everyday Racism: Critical Race Theory, Visual Microaggressions, and the Historical Image of Mexican Banditry". <i>Qualitative Inquiry</i> . 21(3): 223-238
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Tokiharu Mayeda, David, Moeata Keil, MA, Hilary Dansey Dutton, I.-Futa-Helu Ofamo'Oni. 2014. "You've Gotta Set a Precedent": Māori and Pacific voices on student success in higher education. *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, 10(2): 165-179.

### **Week 7**

READING WEEK. NO CLASS

### **Week 8**

#### **The Racial State**

### *Mandatory*

1. Goldberg, David Theo. 2002. "Chapter 4. Racial Rule". In *The Racial State*. Malden (MA) and Oxford: Blackwell.

2. Anderson, Bridget. 2013. "Chapter 2. Subject, Aliens, Citizens, Migrants". In *Us and Them? The Dangerous Politics of Immigration Controls*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### *Recommended*

Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. 2007. "Introduction". In *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus Crisis and Opposition in Globalizing California*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [The whole book is warmly recommended].

Alexander, Michelle. 2010. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press.

Marx, Anthony 1998. "Racial domination and the state." In *Making Race and Nation*. Cambridge University Press.

Nightingale, Carl. 2012. "Chapter 6. Segregation Mania" In *Segregation: A History of Divided Cities*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Robinson, Cedric. 1983. Chapter 5. "The Atlantic Slave Trade and African Labor". In *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press.

## **Week 9**

### **Racial Cities**

1. Du Bois, W.E.B. 1899. "Social Classes and Amusement". In *The Philadelphia Negro*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
2. Keaton, Trica D. 2006. "Structured Exclusion: Public Housing in the French Outer City" in *Muslim Girls and the Other France: Race, Identity Politics and Social Exclusion*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
3. Picker, Giovanni. 2017. "Introduction". In *Racial Cities: Governance and the Segregation of Romani People in Urban Europe*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge.

### *Recommended*

Sibley, David (1995) "W.E.B. DuBois: A Black Perspective on Social Space". In *Geographies of Exclusion*. London and New York: Routledge.

Goldberg, David Theo. 1993. "Polluting the Body Politics". In *Racist Culture: Philosophy and the Politics of Meaning*. Malden (MA) and Oxford: Blackwell.

Wacquant, Loic. 2007. *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. Polity Press

Venkatesh, Sudhir. 2008. "How Does It Feel to Be Black and Poor?" in *Gang Leader for a Day*. London: Penguin Books

Fassin, Didier. 2013. "Discrimination". In *Enforcing Order: An Ethnography of Urban Policing*. Cambridge: Polity Press

Documentary: *Cape Town: Gangs, Race and Poverty 20 years after Apartheid* (Michael Fischer, 2014 - on Youtube).

## **Week 10**

### **The Post-racial**

#### *Mandatory*

1. Homi, Michael and Winant, Howard. 2015[1986]. "Chapter 8. Colorblindness, Neoliberalism and Obama". In *Racial Formations in the United States*. New York and London: Routledge.
2. Sayyid S. 2017. 'Post-racial paradoxes: rethinking European racism and anti-racism', *Patterns of Prejudice*, 51(1): 9-25.

#### *Recommended*

Ioanide, Paula. 2014. "Introduction: Facts and Evidence don't Work Here". In *The Emotional Politics of Racism: How Emotions Trump Facts in an Era of Colorblindness*. Stanford: University of Stanford Press.

Garner, Steve. 2016. "Chapter 3. The 'neoliberal postracial' state". In *A Moral Economy of Whiteness: Four Frames of Racializing Discourse*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Goldberg, David Theo. 2015. "Introduction". In *Are We All Postracial Yet?* Cambridge (MA): Polity Press.

## **Week 11**

### **Europe - Anti-Roma and Anti-Black Racism**

#### *Mandatory*

Anti-Roma Racism - Picker, Giovanni. 2017. "Chapter 4. Containment" In *Racial Cities: Governance and the Segregation of Romani People in Urban Europe*. Abingdon and New York: Routledge.

Anti-Black Racism - Nimako, Kwame and Small, Stephen. 2009. Theorizing Black Europe and African Diaspora: Implications of Citizenship, Nativism and Xenophobia. In Darlene Clark Hine, Trica Danielle Keaton, Stephen Small (eds) *Black Europe and the African Diaspora*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press.

#### *Recommended*

Keaton, Trica D. 2006. "Beyond Identity: Muslim Girls and the Politics of Their Existence". In *Muslim Girls and the Other France: Race, Identity Politics and Social Exclusion*, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Todorova, Maria. 1997. "Introduction" and "Conclusion". In *Imagining the Balkans*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Documentary: *A people uncounted* (Aaron Yeger, 2014)