

# Racialisation and Publicness in Africa and the African Diaspora Conference

African Studies Centre,  
University of Oxford,  
UK.

27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

**Venue: St Antony's College, 62, Woodstock Road,  
Oxford, OX2 6JF, United Kingdom.**

## Programme



**Convenor:** *Wale Adebawwi, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations, African Studies Centre, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford, UK;*  
**Conference Administrator,** *Alexa Viridi ([events@africa.ox.ac.uk](mailto:events@africa.ox.ac.uk))*

This Conference is supported by: The Rhodes Chair in Race Relations; African Studies Centre; St Antony's College; Africa Oxford Initiative (AfOx); and The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH)

# DAY 1: 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

Venue: Investcorp Building, St Antony's College,

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Registration: 9:00 – 9:30 am

## MORNING PLENARY: 9:30-11: am - Investcorp Building Hall

Convener's Welcome Address: **Professor Wale Adebani** (Rhodes Professor of Race Relations and Director of African Studies Centre, Oxford University)

Introduction of Keynote Speaker: **Professor Wale Adebani**

Keynote Lecture (I): 'Nanoracism: Reflections on Bodies and Borders' by **Professor Achille Mbembe** (WISER, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa)

Question & Answer

Gratitude (on behalf of the Convener, Hosts and Sponsors): **Alexa Viridi, DPhil Student, Oxford University, UK**

**BREAK: 11:00-11:30 AM**

## 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 PANELS

**11:30 am - 1pm: Dahrendorf Room**

**Panel 1: Black Studies, Blackness, and the Question of Race/Racialisation in Africa**

The African Origins of Racial Capitalism  
**Peter James Hudson, UCLA, USA**

Colonialism's Returns: On Racial Capitalism and Resource Extraction in Ghana  
**Jemima Pierre, UCLA, USA**

Becoming Diasporically African: Capoeira and Racial Self-Making in West Africa  
**Celina de Sá, Dartmouth College, USA**

Between Black and White Africa: Mapping a New Nation in South Sudan  
**Zachary Mondesire, UCLA, USA**

Chair/Discussant: **Mónica Moreno Figueroa, Cambridge University, UK**

**11:30 am - 1pm: Deakin Room**

**Panel 2: Racializing Muslims: Possibilities and Limits of Global Muslim Solidarity**

Muslim humanitarians in Black, Brown, and White: Racializing the white saviour complex in Africa

**Rhea Rahman**, Brooklyn College of CUNY, USA

“They Still Call Us Slaves” - Sudanese Migrant Genealogies in Lebanon

**Anna Simone Reumert**, Columbia University, USA

From *Toubab* to *Cisse*: Shifting Racial Formations amongst African and African American Muslims in Senegal

**Samaha Rahman**, University of Pennsylvania, USA

“It is in their *Asl* (Origins)”: reproducing and maintaining global racialized categories in Morocco

**Lewis Addison Bradford**, Indiana University Bloomington, USA

Care as ownership: Racialisation and objectification of the “African child”

**Ezgi Guner**, University of Illinois, USA

**Chair/Discussant: Shobana Shankar**, Stony Brook University, NY, USA

**11:30 am - 1pm: Investcorp Building Hall**

**Panel 3: Race, Dehumanisation and Corporate Public Façades in Africa**

Racialized Humanitarianism and the Dehumanization of Refugees in East Africa  
**Patricia Daley**, Oxford University, UK

Diamond Crème and the ‘Masque of Global Death’

**Kerrie Thornhill**, Oxford University, UK

A Decolonial Critique of the Racialized Localwashing of Extraction in Central Africa

**Amber Murrey**, Oxford University, UK & **Nickolas Jackson**, Coventry University Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, and Ronin Institute, UK

Fighting Racism in The Era of Robotics and Transhumans

**Horace Campbell**, Syracuse University, USA

**Chair: David Pratten**, Oxford University,

	<p>UK</p> <p><b>Discussant: Joy Owen</b>, University of the Free State, South Africa/Oxford University, UK</p>
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**LUNCH BREAK: 1:00-2:00 PM**

<p><b><u>2:00-3:30 pm: Deakin Room</u></b></p> <p><b>Panel 4: Histories of racialisation and ethnicisation in today’s post-slavery Societies: Continuities and Discontinuities</b></p>	<p>Limits of citizenship in navigating “racial differences” in the Gulf States: a case study of young citizens in Dubai <b>Idil Akinci</b>, University of Sussex, UK</p> <p>Kirdi, slaves and “sons of the people”. Genealogies and ethnicities in a Sahelian post-slavery context <b>Valerio Colosio</b>, University of Sussex, UK</p> <p>Racial constructions in post-2011 Tunisia: between black rights activism and slave descendants’ communities <b>Marta Scaglioni</b>, University of Bayreuth, Germany/University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy</p> <p>“Black People, White Hearts”: Origin, Race, and Colour in Contemporary Yemen <b>Luca Nevola</b>, University of Sussex, UK</p> <p><b>Chair/Discussant: William Beinart</b>, Oxford University, UK</p>
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<p><b><u>2:00-3:30 pm: Investcorp Building Hall</u></b></p> <p><b>Panel 5: Racialisation and Knowledge-Production</b></p>	<p>Afrocentricity and Afrocentric Racial Identity: A Response to Racialisation in the African American Thought <b>Mai Tarek</b>, Cairo University, Egypt</p> <p>‘Native’ speakers and the racialisation of knowledge production <b>Malami Buba</b>, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Global Campus, Yongin, Korea</p> <p>The data is gold, and we are the gold-diggers’: Reflections on race and new data collection practices in eastern DRC</p>
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	<p><b>Gauthier Marchais</b>, University of Sussex, UK</p> <p>Body marking, ritual scarification and the historical formation of stereotypes about Africans in colonial Brazil (Eighteenth century)</p> <p><b>Aldair Rodrigues</b>, University of Campinas-UNICAMP, Brazil</p> <p><b>Chair/Discussant: Jemima Pierre</b>, UCLA, USA</p>
<p><b><u>2:00-3:30 pm: Dahrendorf Room</u></b></p> <p><b>Panel 6 - Colonialism, Apartheid and Racialised Bodies</b></p>	<p>Racialisation and Politicization of the Gĩkũyũ in Colonial Kenya Before the “Mau Mau Emergency, 1915-52</p> <p><b>Ben Knighton</b>, Oxford University, UK</p> <p>Racialisation in Law: Portuguese Charter of the Natives (1954) as the Juridification of the Other</p> <p><b>Rui Alexandre Verde</b>, Oxford University, UK</p> <p>New Chains, Mew Mountains: Towards a Poetic Hauntology of the Criminalized Body in the Cape</p> <p><b>Javier Perez</b>, University of Cape Town, South Africa</p> <p>Bodies as/of Documents: On Biometric Technologies and their Histories of Racialisation</p> <p><b>Irene Fubara-Manuel</b>, University of Sussex, UK</p> <p><i>Plus ça Change, Plus c'est la Même Chose!</i> Historicizing Contemporary Racialisation of Blacks in Africa</p> <p><b>W. Alade Fawole</b>, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria</p> <p><b>Chair/Discussant: Lily Owusu-Darkwa</b>, Oxford University, UK</p>
<p><b>BREAK 3:30-4:00 PM</b></p>	

**4:00-5:30 pm: Investcorp Building Hall**

**Panel 7 - Notions of Diaspora and Homeland: The Impact of the Contemporary Emergence of Racism(s), Antisemitism(s), Nationalism(s) and White Supremacy in the Age of Globalisation (1)**

Homeland and Diaspora Models for an Authentic Dual Identity: A Hermeneutical Tool for Reimagining the Other in White Supremacists Religion and Religiosity in the African Diaspora

**Lawrence Amsel**, Columbia University, USA

A Tool for Reimagining the Other in White Supremacists Religion and Religiosity  
**Harold V. Bennett**, Morehouse College, USA

Zionism and Pan-Africanism: A Common Journey to Recapture Ethnic Self-Realization  
**Ansel Brown**, North Carolina Central University, USA

The African in the American: Sites of Memory-Contested Histories  
**Valerie Ann Johnson**, Bennett College, North Carolina, USA

The Impact of Racial Formation on Afro-Religious Imagery and Hierarchy in Cuba and the United States  
**Carlton Long**, Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy & Lawrence and Co Educational Consulting, USA

**Chair/Discussant: Yossi Shain**, Tel Aviv University, Israel

**4:00-5:30 pm: Dahrendorf Room**

**Panel 8 – Racialisation in (post)colonial Bermuda: Past and Present**

They Called Us Hoodlums: Media, Desegregation and the 1959 Bermuda Theatre Boycotts

**Dana Selassie**, Independent Scholar

‘Goin’ dahn de road’: Racialised dialect parody in Bermuda

**Rosy Hall**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Bermuda gombey (re)connections: Covering and recovering indigeneity in the Black Atlantic

**Sydney Hutchinson**, Syracuse University, USA and **Dorothea Hast**, University of Connecticut, USA

‘MY NAME IS SUE’: The Mother of Mary Prince and the Racialised Abdication of Bermuda in the Authentication of Her History

**LeYoni Junos**, Independent Scholar

Memories Lost in the Triangle: An Exploration of Bermuda’s Social Conditioning Through Racial Amnesia  
**H. Alicia Kirby**, Goldsmith’s, University of London, UK

**Chair/Discussant:** **Kristy Warren**, University of Leicester, UK

## Evening Plenary

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm: Investcorp Building Hall**

- Chair: **Professor Patricia Daley**, Professor of the Human Geography of Africa, Oxford University, UK
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker: **Dr Joy Owen**, Associate Professor, Anthropology Department, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa and Mellon Global South Visiting Professor, TORCH, Oxford University
- Keynote Lecture (II): ‘**Navigating Racialisation’s Dangerous 'Glocal' Terrain: Africana Feminisms in Transnational Counterpublics**’ By **Professor Faye V. Harrison**, Professor of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
- Question and Answer

## DAY 2: 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

**Investcorp Building Hall: 10:00-11:00 am**

**Dialogue: Professor Wale Adebaniwi**, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations, African Studies Centre, Oxford University, UK **and Professor Achille Mbembe**, WISER, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

- *Everyone is welcome to attend*

## BREAK: 11:00-11:30 AM

### Investcorp Building Hall - 11:30 am - 1pm

#### **Panel 9: Africa and Race in South-South Globalisation (I)**

“They call me Habshi”: Figurations of contemporary anti-blackness and pre-colonial relations in Delhi, India

**Ethiraj Gabriel Dattatreyan**, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK

Public-ising African-Indian Racial Imaginaries

**Shobana Shankar**, Stony Brook University, NY, USA

This Smile is not about you: Black Migrancy and the Emotional Landscape of São Paulo, Brazil

**Derek Pardue**, Aarhus University, Denmark

**Chair/Discussant: Nayanika Mathur**, Oxford University, UK

### Dahrendorf Room - 11:30 am - 1pm

#### **Panel 10: The Politics of Racialisation in the Black Atlantic**

A Battle of Worths: Symbolic boundaries, blackness and notions of progress

**Melissa Valle**, Rutgers University-Newark, USA

The Politics of Race and the Social Construction of Black Africans in Canada

**Olabanji Akinola**, Algoma University, USA

Black Muslim Cosmopolitanism: Islam and the Reconstruction of Race and Geography in the Black Atlantic

**Rasul Miller**, University of Pennsylvania, USA

**Chair/Discussant: Mónica Moreno Figueroa**, Cambridge University, UK



**Deakin Room - 11:30 am - 1pm**

**Panel 11 - Race, Empire, and Geographies of Threat: the 'War on Terror' in Africa and beyond**

Race, empire and counter-terror: the (re)production of stratified vulnerabilities within and across Tunisia's borders

**Corinna Mullin**, New School, NY, USA

Target Somalia: Between the imaginative and grounded geographies of the East Africa Warscape

**Samar Al-Bulushi**, University of California, Irvine, USA

Being Arab/Being Muslim in the Greater Horn of Africa: The War of Terror and the Shaping of Opportunities in Djibouti and Ethiopia

**Samson Bezabeh**, Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR), Uganda

**Chair/Discussant: Patricia Daley**, Oxford University, UK

**LUNCH BREAK: 1:00-2:00 PM**

**Dahrendorf Room: 2:00-3:30 pm**

**PANEL 12 - Racialisation, Media and Publics**

Beyond 'racial outrage': postcolonial publics, digital diasporas and mediated encounters

**Wendy Willems**, LSE, UK

Racialising Black Bodies in Media and Charity Representations

**Tunde Alabi-Hundeyin**, University of Sussex, UK

Migration and African diaspora: A racialised narrative perpetuated by media

**Benazir Hilali**, Independent Scholar

Blackness in the public sphere: racist imagery in Swiss and German public debates

**Thomas Blaser**, Independent scholar

**Chair/Discussant: Harri Englund**, Cambridge University, UK

**Deakin Room: 2:00-3:30 pm**

**PANEL 13 - Africa and Race in South-South Globalisation (II)**

The stigmatization of the Congolese workforce in Sino-Lebanese companies in the DRC: the experience of black racialisation in white companies in Africa  
**Milolo Nsenda Martin**, University of Kinshasa, DRC

To Be an African Student in the Turkish Capital: Challenges and Opportunities  
**Farkhad Alimukhamedov**, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Toulouse, France and **Engin Akcay**, *Journal of Human Security*, Switzerland

**Chair/Discussant: Adam Branch**, Cambridge University, UK

**Investcorp Building Hall: 2:00-3:30 pm**

**PANEL 14 - Literature, Arts and Racialisation**

Race Politics, Jurisprudential Discourse, and the Rhetoric of Nationhood in South African Legal Novels  
**Zuhmboshi Eric Nsuh**, University of Yaounde, Cameroon

Signifyin(g): Racialising the Other in Joseph Conrad's *The Nigger of the Narcissus*  
**Victoria Osei-Bonsu**, University of Ghana, Ghana

'Alterity and Temporality or Altered Temporality? Re-conceptualisations of Time in Post-Apartheid South Africa'  
**Paulina Grzęda**, University of Warsaw, Poland

Demanding Recognition – White Curation of Black Art in Contemporary South Africa  
**Vibe Nielsen**, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

**Chair/Discussant: Elleke Boehmer**, Oxford University, UK

**Seminar Room, African Studies Centre (13 Bevington Road): 2:00-3:30 pm**

**Panel 15 - The Politics of Conceptualizing “Race” and Difference in the Arab Middle East and Diaspora**

The Racial Diacritics of MultiKulti Music-Making in Syrian Berlin

**Shayna Silverstein**, Northwestern University, USA

Between Local Authoritarianism and the Global “War on Terror”: Securitization and Racecraft in the Lives of Urban Youth in Contemporary Egypt

**Darci Sprengel**, Oxford University, UK

**Chair/Discussant: Lily Owusu-Darkwa**, Oxford University, UK

### **BREAK 3:30-4:00 PM**

**Investcorp Building Hall: 4:00-5:30 pm**

**Panel 16 - Racialisation and Publicness: Lessons from the Nineteenth Century**

Rhodes Must Not Rise: An Alternative Afrofuturism

**Harri Englund**, Cambridge University, UK

From ‘Liberated African’ to ‘Coloured’: Abolition, law, and race in the Western Cape, c. 1808-1870,

**Jake Christopher Richards**, Cambridge University, UK

Historical arguments in debates about the Rhodes statue in Oxford, 2015-6

**William Beinart**, Oxford University, UK

**Chair/Discussant: Tim Livsey**, Oxford University, UK

**Dahrendorf Room: 4:00-5:30 pm**

**Panel 17 - Gender, Biopolitics and Racialisation**

Black women and Europeanisation in the 1990s,

**Pamela Ohene-Nyako**, University of Geneva, Switzerland

‘Black Zone:’ the Public Fear of the African Terrorist

**Kirin Gupta**, Harvard University, USA

Silence is Violence; An Intersectional Analysis of Police Violence against Black Women

**Johise Namwira**, Oxford University, UK

	<p>Utilizing Culturally Historical Activity Theory (C.H.A.T.) as a Tool of Analysis to Improve Methods of Healthcare Delivery and Outcomes for African Americans  <b>Lincoln D. Pettaway</b>, Antioch University Midwest, USA</p> <p><b>Chair/Discussant: Joy Owen</b>, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa &amp; Oxford University, UK</p>
<p><b><u>Deakin Room: 4:00-5:30 pm</u></b></p> <p><b>Panel 18 - Notions of Diaspora and Homeland: The Impact of the Contemporary Emergence of Racism(s), Antisemitism(s), Nationalism(s) and White Supremacy in the Age of Globalisation (II)</b></p>	<p>Racecraft and an Expulsion from Diaspora  <b>K. Gibel Mevorach</b>, Grinnell College, USA</p> <p>Immigration and Integration of the Ethiopian Jewish Community to Israel  <b>Avraham Neguise</b>, Member of the Knesset of Israel</p> <p>The Legacy of Babylonian Exiles in Contemporary Diaspora Affairs: Jews and Blacks in our Time.  <b>Yossi Shain</b>, Tel Aviv University, Israel</p> <p>Contemporary Discourse of Homeland and Its Impact on African and Jewish Diaspora Communities in Europe and North America  <b>Charles Asher Small</b>, Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, USA</p> <p><b>Chair/Discussant: Valerie Ann Johnson</b>, Bennett College, North Carolina, USA</p>
<p><b><u>Seminar Room, African Studies Centre (13 Bevington Road) 4:00-5:30 pm</u></b></p> <p><b>Panel 19 - A British National Dialogue on the Big Conversation of Racism: Beyond the Hidden Resistance</b></p>	<p><b>Llewellyn Simmons</b>, Independent Scholar</p> <p><b>Radell Tankard</b>, Independent Scholar</p> <p><b>Rolphe Commissiong</b>, Independent Scholar</p> <p><b>Heather Whalen</b>, Independent Scholar</p> <p><b>Chair/Discussant: Kristy Warren</b>, University of Leicester, UK</p>