

CALL FOR PAPERS

Submission deadline: 1 November 2017

Conference on Race in Contemporary Denmark

Venue: Aalborg University Copenhagen (A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, Copenhagen)
18-19 January 2018

Race has an ambiguous and contentious presence in contemporary Denmark. In the broader public issues concerning racialization and neo-colonialist discourses and policies are often seen as belonging to the past and with no relevance in a post-racial present. In recent years, however, critical approaches to racism and colonialism have gained more traction. While scholars have observed a widespread denial of structural racism in Danish society, activist groups led by minorities and people of color have offered strong interventions aimed to challenge racial oppression and dominant knowledge around the legacy of Danish colonialism.

These developments and the emerging racial awareness call for more nuanced understandings and examinations of the complexity of racialization and the role of neocolonialism in Denmark. As such, it also opens up for approaching race as a multifarious phenomenon that intersectionally embrace gender, class, religion, and not least time and space. The conference will include key note speakers and panels that ask questions, such as: how does race works in contemporary Danish society? Can one talk about race in Denmark without talking about anti-Semitism, islamophobia, anti-blackness and ultra-nationalistic ideologies? And how can decolonial and postcolonial theory contribute to contemporary scholarly work on racialization and race?

The conference approaches race and neocolonialism in contemporary Denmark through its historical continuities and disruptions, and we welcome investigations of race through a variety of domains such as (but not limited to) refugee and border control, integration policies, popular culture, trafficking laws, foreign policy, transnational kinship, radicalization as well as development and humanitarian aid. At the very heart of these academic discussions, we ask about the state of race and neocolonialism in contemporary Denmark; what is (not) unique about the Danish case? And how may general and international experiences, discussions, and theories might produce new understandings of racialization in Denmark?

The conference will be organized around four parallel workshop streams and it will feature a number of key note lectures by the distinguished scholars: professor Philomena Essed (Antioch University), professor Nasar Meer (University of Edinburgh), professor Achille Mbembe (University of the Witwatersrand) and associate professor Peter Hervik (Aalborg University).

The conference is organized by the Dept. of Culture and Global Studies (the research groups *Global Refugee Studies* (GRS) and *A Study of Experiences and Resistance to Racialization in Denmark* (SERR)) and the Dept. of Learning and Philosophy (the research center *Social Exclusion and Learning* (SEAL)) all at Aalborg University, as well as Network for Gender Studies at the University of Stavanger, Norway.

We invite abstracts on the themes in the workshop streams. While all papers should preferably relate to Denmark in the broadest sense, abstracts that can be related or compared to Denmark are also welcome. Length of abstract is 250 words (20 minutes presentation).

Stream I: Racial Blind Spots in Danish Policy Domains

In this workshop stream we invite papers that explore the implicit role of race in relation to different policy domains in Denmark. These domains comprise for instance refugee policy, development aid; commodities industries; relations to Greenland, Ghana and the US Virgin Islands; histories of slavery and commemoration; border surveillance and the trafficking and integration of migrants. While race clearly plays a part in most of these domains, it is often left un-said or theorized as something else. This workshop stream attempts to unearth these implicit racial tensions to find a language where race can be discussed in productive manners.

The stream is organized by Global Refugee Studies (GRS, AAU). Coordinator: Martin Lemberg-Pedersen.

Stream II: Race and the Contentious Production of Post/De Colonial Spaces

In this workshop stream we invite papers that explore the role of race and power in the asymmetric frameworks of de/post colonized (professional) spaces. What influence does race and power have in intercultural (spatial) contexts? Some of the contexts we have in mind are intercultural exchanges such as internationally situated competence development, education, aid, and related projects, though we are open to other suggestions. We are interested in how asymmetrically positioned actors navigate and manage such international and cross-spatial interactions. How can a mutual and respectful process be facilitated? The workshop is primarily dialogical. We encourage shorter presentations, more dialogical interaction and exchange.

The stream is organized by Social Exclusion and Learning (SEAL, AAU). Coordinator: Iben Jensen.

Stream III: Researching Critical Media Events and Resistance to Racism and Racialization in Denmark

The news coverage has changed dramatically in the last fifteen years as commercialization, monopolization, and personalization of news have given in to news as entertainment, boxing-match type of coverage, as well as occasionally becoming a major player in politics, domestically as well as globally. The emergence of social media, direct publishing, news streaming, but arguably also an increase of political spin, "alternative facts," planted news, and the popularization of anti-intellectualism have produced a media coverage that focus on conflict, confrontation, and aggressive debates, where public interest and fact-based coverage in structures of racial inequality, increased racialization, and minority experiences of racial discrimination play little or no role. In this session, we would like to focus on at least three areas. Debates concerning racialization and racism occur as an un-ending series of heated media events, often only lasting a few days. We encourage presenters to present their analysis of such events, as critical media events, or popular culture incidents, and discuss how they contribute to other such analyses to produce a more coherent picture of debates of racialization and what they can tell us more generally about racism from a theoretical perspective. Secondly, we encourage papers to discuss how experiences of racial discrimination, anti-racist activism and research on racism, can be communicated, not only within academic channels but also to the general public without paying lip service to mainstream media. Thirdly, we invite papers that analyse the grounding of race and racialized representations in social relations of everyday life.

The stream is organized by the research group A Study of Experiences and Resistance to Racialization in Denmark (SERR, AAU). Coordinator: Peter Hervik.

Stream IV: Intersectional Perspectives on Race

This stream has two focal points. It invites papers that engage with race and racialization in relation to categories such as (but not limited to) gender, sexuality, class, religion, and disability. Papers may explore this question through a range of empirical settings: for example, welfare state biopolitics, family and reproductive politics, transnational intimacies, and cultural and artistic production. Secondly, the stream invites papers that grapple with theoretical conceptualizations of race: How do we develop concepts that fit Danish and Nordic contexts? And how may we expand our understandings of race in order to grasp the multiple shapes of racism and racialization; as manifested in, for example, anti-Muslim racism, anti-blackness, and anti-semitism.

The stream is organized by Network for Gender Studies (University of Stavanger). Coordinator: Lene Myong.

Easy Chair Quick Guide (abstracts must be submitted via EasyChair)

- 1) Login to the conference submission page: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=rcd18>
 - Existing users of EasyChair may login to EasyChair using their existing "user name" and "password" (e.g., if you have previously submitted an abstract for another conference using EasyChair).
 - New users must sign up for an EasyChair account on the EasyChair website.
- 2) When logged into EasyChair click on the "New Submission" button in the top left corner.
- 3) Please fill in the required information under "Authors" and select the speaker (if more than one author)
- 4) Paste your abstract text into the online form (max. 250 words)
- 5) Add "Keywords" (minimum three keywords on separate lines).
- 6) Click on the "Submit" button (you will receive a confirmation once you have submitted your abstract. You can revise the abstract and author information etc. until the submission deadline).