

HS 32510: Hierarchy, Inequality, and Race in the International System

Winter Semester 2023-2024

Mondays 10:00-12:00
Room 319

Instructor:

Prof. Lora Anne Viola, PhD
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Office Hours:

Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm, or by appointment. Please sign up at politics@jfki.fu-berlin.de

Course Description:

Discussions of race and racism are often missing from the study of international relations—even though questions of race and racism have historically been foundational to both theories and practices of international politics. This course aims to study the role that racialized hierarchies play in historical and contemporary international relations by engaging with the work of leading contemporary scholars. Specifically, the course is designed around a series of guest lectures by prominent scholars in the field who will come to Berlin to present and discuss their research with students, with topics ranging from international organizations, to international law, to international political economy, international security, and more. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the latest scholarship on race and international relations and to provide a theoretical and empirical foundation for understanding racialized hierarchies and inequalities in the global order.

Course Goals:

The central goals of the seminar are to become familiar with state-of-the-art research on racialized hierarchies and international politics from a range of perspectives, to develop awareness and skills for how to discuss and study race in an international context, to critically assess a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches.

Course Requirements:

Participation Credit:

- Regular attendance!
- Close *reading* of the assigned texts and active *participation* in class discussions;
- Preparation of *discussion questions* in advance of class;
- *Three memos* (1-2 pages) engaging in the content of three lectures from the lecture series “Race, Multilateral Institutions, and International Relations” (usually Wednesdays 16-18h).
- *All assignments must be posted to blackboard to earn credit.*

Graded Credit:

- All of the above plus a final research paper. A 1-page paper proposal must be submitted by **January 16th**. The final paper is due uploaded to BB on **April 1st**. Guidelines for the proposal and the research paper will be posted on BB.

Schedule

All readings available on blackboard.

An appendix with supplementary reading recommendations is posted on BB.

Oct. 16	Introduction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mills, Charles. 1998. "But what are you really?" in <i>Blackness Visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race</i>.
Oct. 23	Race and International Relations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell, Duncan. 2013. "Race and international relations: Introduction," <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i>, 26(1): 1-4. • Henderson, Errol. 2013. "Hidden in Plain Sight: Racism in International Relations Theory," <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i>, 26(1): 71-92. • Shilliam, Robbie. 2013. "Race and Research Agendas," <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i>, 26(1): 152-58.
Oct. 30	Race and Human Rights Zoltán Búzás
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blain, Keisha. 2020. "Civil Rights International," <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 99(5). • Búzás, Zoltán. 2018. "Is the Good News About Law Compliance Good News About Norm Compliance? The Case of Racial Equality," <i>International Organization</i>, 72(2): 351-385. • Solomon, Ty. 2023. "Up in the air: Ritualized atmospheres and the global Black Lives Matter movement," <i>European Journal of International Relations</i>, 29(3): 576-601.
Nov. 10 @noon (NB: different day and time!)	Black Studies and Security Studies: Retrieving an Intimate Relationship Robbie Shilliam
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shilliam, Robbie. 2020. "Race and Racism in International Relations: Retrieving a Scholarly Inheritance," <i>International Politics Reviews</i> 8(2): 152–95. • Barder, Alex. 2019. "Scientific racism, race war and the global racial imaginary," <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 40(2).
Nov. 13	Racial Capitalism and International Economic Law Ntina Tzouvala
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Thuo Gathii, Ntina Tzouvala. 2022. "Racial Capitalism and International Economic Law: Introduction," <i>Journal of International Economic Law</i>, 25: 199-206. • Michael Fakhri. 2022. "Markets, Sovereignty and Racialisation," <i>Journal of International Economic Law</i>, 25: 242-258.
Nov. 20	**No Class/SCRIPTS Mid-Term Conference**

	Optional attendance at SCRIPTS lecture: <i>Widersprüche im liberalen Skript</i> 18:15-19:45 Hörsaal 1b, Habelschwerdter Allee 45
Nov. 27	<p style="text-align: center;">Empire's Afterlife Offshore Lukas Hakelberg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hakelberg, Lukas and Leo Ahrens. 2023. The Whiteness of Wealth Management: Colonial Economic Structure, Racism, and the Emergence of Tax Havens in the British Caribbean, <i>Manuscript</i>. Maurer, Bill. 1997. "Creolization Redux: The Plural Society Thesis and Offshore Financial Services in the British Caribbean," <i>New West Indian Guide/Nieuwe West-Indische Gids</i> 71(3/4): 249-264. Ogle, Vanessa. 2020. "'Funk Money': The End of Empires, the Expansion of Tax Havens, and Decolonization as an Economic and Financial Event," <i>Past and Present</i> 249(1): 213-249.
Dec. 4	<p style="text-align: center;">What's Black Got To Do With It: Quilombos, Palmares, and the Modern Republic Siba N'Zatioula Grovogui</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diggs, Irene. 1953. "Zumbi and the Republic of Os Palmares," <i>Phylon</i> 14(1): 62-70. de Carvalho, Aline Vieira. 2007. "Archaeological Perspectives of Palmares: A Maroon Settlement in 17th century Brazil," <i>African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter</i> 10(1), 5. Grovogui, Siba N'Zatioula. 2023. "Abjuration and Subjectivity: Palmares, Quilombolas, and Republicanism," manuscript.
Dec. 11	<p style="text-align: center;">Past and Future of Sovereignty Ayşe Zarakol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> De Carvalho, Benjamin, Andrew A. Latham, Ayşe Zarakol, Jens Bartelson, Minda Holm, Julia Costa Lopez. 2018. "In the Beginning There Was No Word (for It): Terms, Concepts, and Early Sovereignty." <i>International Studies Review</i> 20 (3): 489–519. Zarakol, Ayşe. 2022. <i>Before the West: The Rise and Fall of Eastern World Orders</i>. Cambridge University Press. Introduction. Sharman, Jason and Ayşe Zarakol. 2023. "Global Slavery in the Making of States and International Orders," <i>APSR</i>, 1-13. <p><i>Recommended:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zarakol, Ayşe (forthcoming) "'Rise of 'Strongmen'? Possible Unforeseen Implications for Foreign Policy', <i>Contexto Internacional</i>. In production. [will circulate proofs – this is a very short piece] Krasner, Stephen D. 2001. "Sovereignty." <i>Foreign Policy</i>, no. 122: 20–29. Brown, Wendy. 2017. <i>Walled States, Waning Sovereignty</i>. Princeton University Press. Introduction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duvall, Raymond and Havercroft, Jonathan. 2008. "Taking sovereignty out of this world: space weapons and empire of the future." <i>Review of International Studies</i> 34(4): 755-775.
Jan. 8	<p style="text-align: center;">Race and Mobility Governance Anam Soomro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achiume, E. Tendayi. 2022. "Racial Borders," <i>The Georgetown Law Journal</i>, 110(3): 445-508. Doty, Roxanne Doty. 1999. "Racism, Desire and the Politics of Immigration" <i>Millennium</i>, 28(3): 585-606. Soomro, Anam. 2024. "People, Paper and Power: The Birth of the Passport in International Law," [forthcoming]
Jan. 15	<p style="text-align: center;">Silencing and the Politics of Inquiry Tarak Barkawi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 1995. <i>Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History</i> (Boston: Beacon Press), Preface and Chapter 1 "The Power in the Story," pp. xxi-30. Ortner, Sherry. 1995. "Resistance and the Problem of Ethnographic Refusal," <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>, 37(1): 173-193. Scott, Joan. 1991. "The Evidence of Experience," <i>Critical Inquiry</i>, 17(4): 773-797.
Jan. 22	<p style="text-align: center;">TBD Rob Knox</p>
Jan. 29	<p style="text-align: center;">Struggles for Justice and Niches of Emancipatory Worldmaking Mariam Salehi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getachew, Adom. 2019. <i>Worldmaking After Empire</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, "A Political Theory of Decolonization." Sabaratham, Meera and Mark Laffey. 2023. "Complex Indebtedness: Justice and the Crisis of Liberal Order," <i>International Affairs</i> 99(1):161-180. Salehi, Mariam. Project Data from "Knowing Violence, Shaping Justice: Technocratic and Anticolonial Worldmaking" (to be discussed in class)
Feb. 5	<p style="text-align: center;">Project Consultations</p>
Feb. 12	<p style="text-align: center;">Wrap-Up and Outlook</p>

Accommodations:

- Any special accommodations regarding the assignments for participation and/or graded credit or class attendance must be requested at the very beginning of the semester. E.g., If you require an early grade or if you anticipate missing a number of classes, etc. you need to discuss options with the instructor within the first two classes of the semester.