

# **RACIAL CAPITALISM**

Conference University of Kassel

**MARXISM MEETS POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES**

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Welcome Booklet

## Racial Capitalism – Marxism meets Postcolonial Studies

Conference 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Paper Presentations, Panel Discussions, Keynotes & Q&A

Universität Kassel

Moritzstraße 18, 34127 Kassel

Mönchebergstraße 5, 34125 Kassel

Kurt-Wolters-Straße 5, 34125 Kassel

### Organised by

Subdivision of Development and Postcolonial Studies,

Department of Social Sciences, University of Kassel

### Organising Committee:

Bianca Arnold, Nina Baghery, Thevagar Mohanadhasan, Jahnavi Rao, Anil Shah, Aram Ziai



U N I K A S S E L  
V E R S I T Ä T



Mit Unterstützung der Fachgruppe Politikwissenschaft

 @RacialCapUniKS

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# Introduction

Spurred by social movements around the world, **racial capitalism** has become a much-debated concept in numerous fields and disciplines of critical social science, reinitiating discussions about the link between racism and capitalism. However, the frequent use of the term is often overshadowed by unclear and contradictory arguments, including issues like: Is the entanglement of racism and capitalism contingent or logically necessary? How are racism and capitalism defined and classified historically? How does the relationship between racism and capitalism differ in different world regions and time periods?

These questions are not new and follow from intense debates in the 1980s and earlier struggles within and between anti-colonial movements. In this context, it is hardly surprising that classic works of the so-called Black Radical Tradition are being re-read and re-interpreted in order to understand, criticise and overcome current conditions of capitalist and racist oppression. Based on Marxist categories and as a critique of a Eurocentric Marxism, the Black Radical Tradition has elaborated the new relevance of racism and (post-) colonialism for capitalist societies. Moreover, beyond the concept of **racial capitalism**, these debates are of utmost relevance for critical social theory and practice.

Yet at the same time, since at least the 1990s, tensions between Marxism and Postcolonial Studies have overshadowed progressive discussions in academia and in social movements on the connection between racism and capitalism and on possibilities for action against racist and capitalist oppression. Sometimes the fronts between Marxists and Postcolonial scholars are so hardened that each critical perspective sees the other as an antagonist to the extent that theoretical, methodological and political differences seem unbridgeable.

Against this background, the Department of Development and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Kassel would like to offer the Conference “Racial Capitalism: Marxism meets Postcolonial Studies” as a platform to intensify anti-racist and anti-capitalist debates, to discuss approaches that can convincingly bring together Marxist and Postcolonial Studies and to formulate strategies for action on the basis of scientific findings on the concept of **racial capitalism**.

At the conference, you will have the opportunity to interact with Gargi Bhattacharyya (University of East London), Kolja Lindner (Université de Vincennes - Paris 8), Vanessa Thompson (Queen’s University, online) and Manuela Bojadžijev (Humboldt University Berlin) in the form of keynote speeches and panel discussions. Additionally, it will feature a series of panels in which international scholars will present their research on the relationship between racism and capitalism and discuss the possibilities and challenges of bringing together Marxist and Postcolonial approaches.

# Code of Conduct

The Racial Capitalism Conference is a platform for peers and academics to meet and exchange ideas. It must, therefore, be a safe place for people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds. We will not tolerate any type of harassment of employees, assistants or participants based on racism, sexism, class, disability, religion, ideology, age, identity, presentation or sexual orientation.

Harassment can include, but is not limited to, the following behaviours:

- Sexual harassment of any kind, including unwelcome sexual attention and/or inappropriate physical contact
- Homo- and transphobia
- Racism
- etc.

If you have been made to feel unsafe, please get in touch with Jahnvi Rao. If, however, you feel more comfortable approaching another member of the organising team, please feel free to do so. Your complaint will be heard and addressed with sensitivity and the degree of anonymity that you desire.

In addition, the University of Kassel also provides [protection from sexualised discrimination and violence](#)

# Program

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Conference Day 1 – Gießhaus, Mönchebergstraße 5, 34127 Kassel

Time	Content	Presenter
11:00AM	Registration	
12:30PM	Welcome address	Welcome remarks of the department by Prof. Dr. Sonja Buckel, Vice President of the University of Kassel Gießhaus   Mönchebergstraße 5
1:30PM	Panel I	First round of paper presentations
3:00PM		<b>Coffee &amp; Snack Break</b>
3:30PM	Panel II	Second round of paper presentations
5:00PM		<b>Coffee Break</b>
5:30PM	Keynote + Q&A	Prof. Gargi Bhattacharyya University of East London "Re:Thinking Racial Capitalism" Moderation: Anil Shah University of Kassel Gießhaus   Mönchebergstraße 5
7:00PM		<b>Dinner buffet</b>

## Friday 06th of October 2023

Conference Day 2 – Campus Center, Moritzstraße 18, 34127 Kassel

Time	Content	Presenter
9:00AM	Panel III	Third round of paper presentations
10:30AM		<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:00AM	Panel IV	Fourth round of paper presentations
12:30PM		Lunch at Zentralmensa, Arnold-Bode-Straße 4
2:00PM	Keynote	Dr. Kolja Lindner Université de Vincennes – Paris 8 “Marxismus trifft Postkoloniale Studien: Herausforderungen und Perspektiven für ein gemeinsames Forschungsprogramm <i>Translation: GER–ENG</i> Hörsaal 3   Campus Center   Moritzstraße 18
3:00PM		<b>Coffee &amp; Snack Break</b>
3:30PM	Panel Discussion	Panel discussion with Manuela Bojadžijev Humboldt University of Berlin Vanessa Thompson Queen’s University Kingston, online and Kolja Lindner, Moderation: Aram Ziai University of Kassel <i>Translation: GER–ENG, ENG–GER</i> Hörsaal 3   Campus Center   Moritzstraße 18
4:30PM	Breakout Sessions	
5:30	Closing	Closing remarks and farewell



# Registration Information

Registration starts on Thursday 05<sup>th</sup> of October at 11:00AM at Mönchebergstraße 5. Please be sure to be present at the registration desk in time, to complete your registration before the program starts. Tea and coffee will be available during this time. If you are not able to make it to the registration desk before the start of the conference, please do so at a later point in the day.

If you are only attending the second day of the conference, please complete your registration on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October at Campus Centre at Moritzstraße 18.

## IT and Wi-Fi Necessities

During the conference, you will be able to use the internet at the University of Kassel on your laptops, tablets and mobile phones. You will be provided with a user ID and password to log in for internet access upon your arrival at the conference venue. To be able to access the internet, however, your device needs to have certain necessary certificates installed. For more information, please visit the [IT Service website](#) of the University of Kassel. It is important that you visit this website and prepare your device to connect to eduroam **before** travelling to Kassel, because you will need internet access to download and install the certificates.

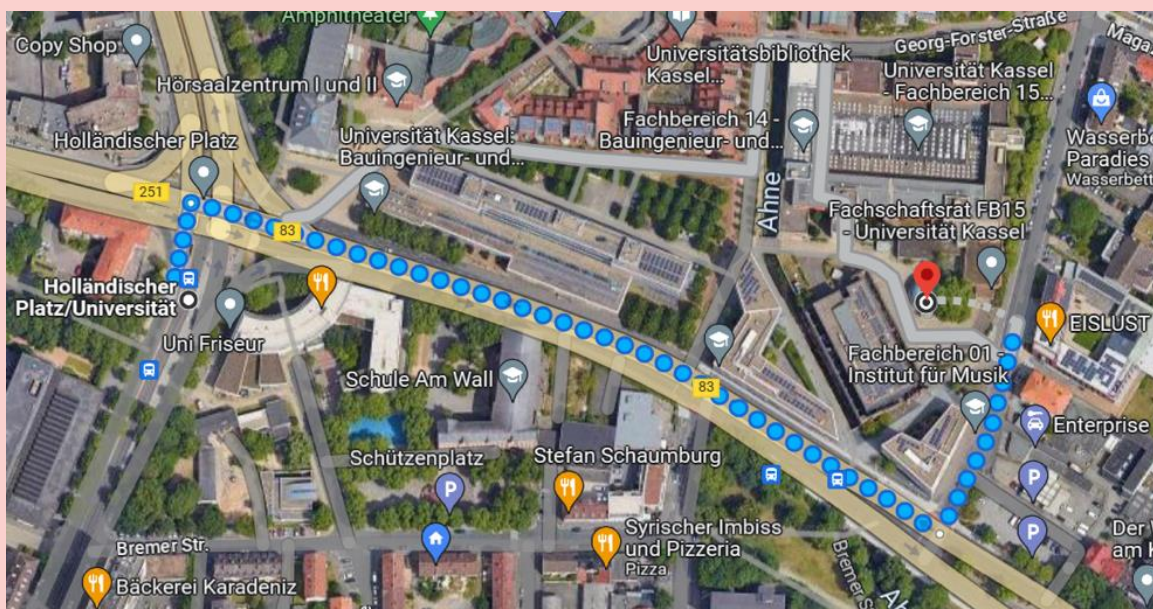
The University of Kassel uses the network “eduroam”. If you are associated with an institution that also uses this network, you will be able to use your usual authentication details (user ID and password) to log in to eduroam here as well.

# Directions to conference venue

## 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

From Tram Station to Gießhaus, Mönchebergstraße 5

- Choose to arrive at Holländischer Platz/Universität tram station.
- Just before the tram stop, when you reach the large traffic crossing, turn left towards Kurt-Wolters-Straße. Follow Kurt-Wolters-Straße along the large glass building right next to the university campus.
- Walk straight along the Kurt-Wolters-Straße till you reach Mönchebergstraße (just after crossing the Mönchebergstraße bus stop).
- Turn left and walk along Mönchebergstraße.
- After crossing the "Institut für Musik"-building you will find the University of Kassel's "Gießhaus" (a small round building), the venue of day 1 of the conference.

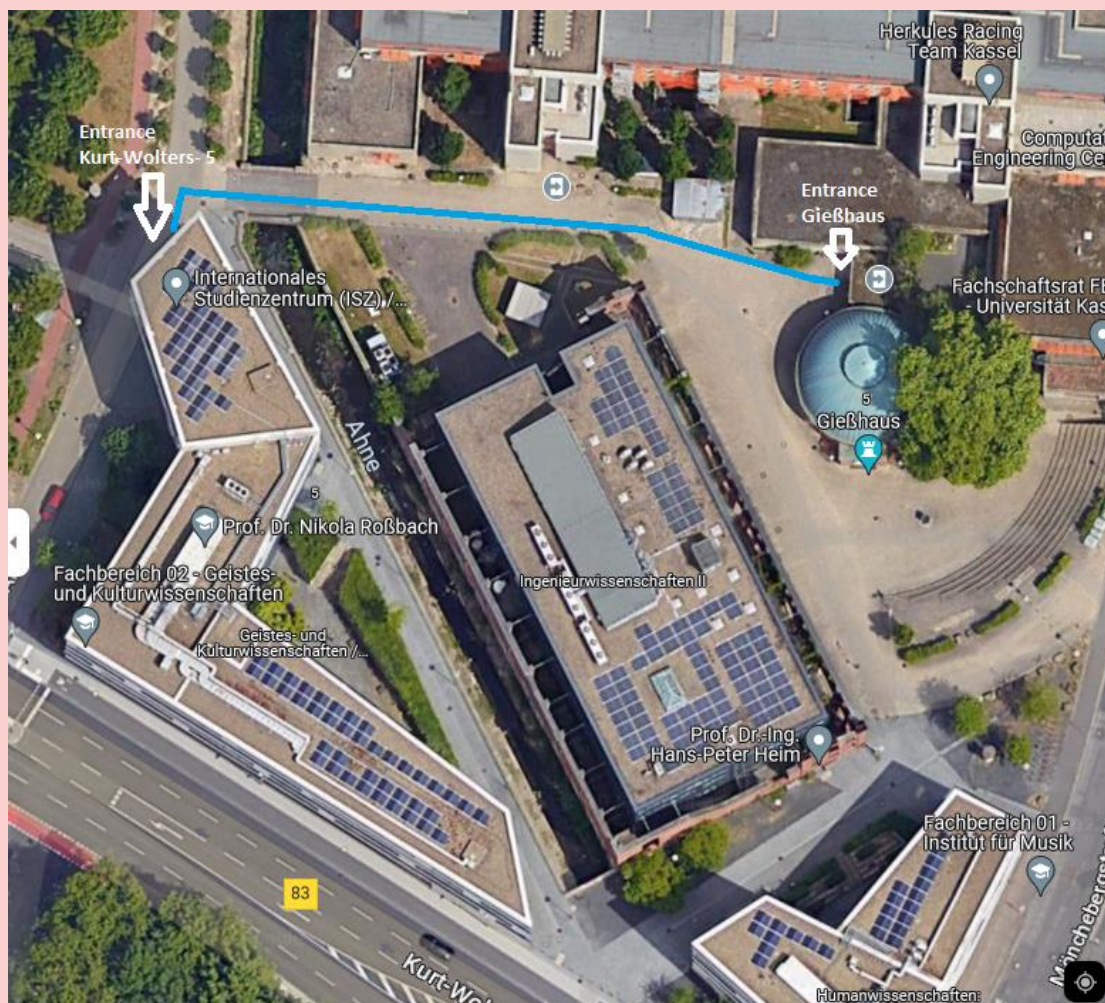


## From Gießhaus to Kurt-Wolters-Straße 5

Directions to the panel rooms 0017 and -1029 on conference day 1

- A part of the seminar rooms is easily found by following this map from direction of Gießhaus.

Path to follow in order to find panel rooms 0017 and -1029:



# Directions to conference venue

6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

From Tram Station Holländischer Platz/Universität  
to Campus Center, Moritzstraße 18

- Choose to arrive at Holländischer Platz/Universität tram station.
- Pass the large traffic crossing, towards the building Ingenieurwissenschaften I (large glass building with Kassel University logo in big letters).
- Enter the diagonal path on the campus, called Diagonale, and follow it. Pass university library to the right of you till you reach Zentralmensa.
- At Zentralmensa you slightly turn left, to walk by Zentralmensa to your right side.
- The big grey building to your left sight is the Campus Center, which you may recognize by its glass front. It is the venue of day 2 of the conference.



# Directions from the Conference Venue to Zentralmensa

Central canteen of the University – for lunch on Friday  
06<sup>th</sup> October at 12:30

- From Campus Center, it is a very short walk to Zentralmensa.
- You may recognize Mensa by its hexagonal building on top of a flight of stairs.
- Inside the Mensa, while purchasing food/drinks, please show your Mensa voucher at the billing counter. You will find your coupon when you turn your name badge that you will receive at the registration. Take it out of the plastic jacket and hand it to the employee at the counter.



# Getting Around: Public Transport System in Kassel

The city is connected to the national rail network at two stations, Kassel Central and Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe. The traditional central station (Hauptbahnhof) has been reduced to a regional station; the high-speed trains InterCityExpress (ICE) and InterCity stop at Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe. Kassel has a well-developed public transport network. All connections can be best visualized within the **DB Navigator App**. **Please note that Google Maps has no access to the public transportation plan of Kassel and might deliver incorrect information.**

## Accommodation options

As the main conference venue will be located at the main campus, we recommend to book accommodation options in proximity.

### **B&B HOTEL Kassel-City**

Address: Waldauer Fußweg 3, 34123 Kassel

Phone: +49 (0)561 574490

[Online Booking](#)

### **Novostar Hotel Kassel**

Address: Holländische Str. 27, 34127 Kassel

Phone: +49 (0)561 807690

[Online Booking](#)

### **Stadthotel Kassel**

Address: Wolfsschlucht 21, 34117 Kassel

Phone: +49 (0)561 788880

[Online Booking](#)

### **Hotel Deutscher Hof**

Address: Lutherstraße 3-5, 34117 Kassel

Tel: +49 (0)561 91800

[Online Booking](#)

# Contact

Thank you for your participation in the Racial Capitalism Conference.

In case of any questions regarding the conference, the organising committee will be pleased to assist you.

## **Mail Contact:**

[racialcapitalism@uni-kassel.de](mailto:racialcapitalism@uni-kassel.de)

## **Important Phone numbers:**

Support Staff in Kassel during the Conference:

Thevagar Mohanadhasan: +49 1704620098

Bianca Arnold: +49 176 3444 0721

Please use these numbers only during the conference.

## **Emergency Numbers:**

**110** Police

**112** Medical Emergency

# Image Disclaimer

Photographers will take pictures during the Conference. By agreeing to attend the Racial Capitalism conference, all the delegates authorize the organising team to make free use of documents portraying their image, with a view to their conservation and distribution for any publication that the organising team, deems appropriate.