

## **Programme of Online Workshop “Racialisation and Social Boundary Making in Times of COVID-19”**

Date: 2-4 December 2020

Organisers: the ChinaWhite research team ([www.china-white.org](http://www.china-white.org))

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The current global COVID-19 pandemic has led not only to the closure of national borders and a near stand-still of international mobility but also to a resurgence of social ‘othering’ and related racist and nationalist narratives and practices. As much as the new COVID-19 virus has been perceived as an ‘outsider’ invading human societies rather than an inherent part of the human-animal ecosystem, racialised human ‘others’ have been blamed as the main carriers and spreaders of this zoonotic virus. For instance, within China people who are from Wuhan (where the pandemic first started) or who have travelled to the Wuhan area were initially socially stigmatised and ostracised. At the international level, US-President Donald Trump was quick to frame COVID-19 as a ‘Chinese virus’ while Asian people around the world have been victims of an increased number of racial incidents and a related resurgence of the ‘yellow peril’ discourse. Meanwhile, the Chinese state has proclaimed internal control of COVID-19 and externalises new infections as a merely imported phenomenon. An uptick in xenophobia targeting foreign populations has subsequently been evident in both state and public discourse in China.

In light of these recent developments, our international online workshop will investigate and theorise the multi-faceted ongoing processes of racialisation and social boundary-making in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The selected papers are grouped in six panels, each providing a specific perspective on racialisation and boundary making practices in different locations and contexts.

**Wednesday, 2 December 2020**

*Panel 1 (10-12 am): COVID-19 Politics and Diplomacy*

Chair: Shanshan Lan

Digital Coordinator: Willy Sier

Discussant: Pál Nyriri, Professor of Global History from an Anthropological Perspective, VU Amsterdam

Marius Meinhof (Technische Universität Dresden and Bielefeld University): **Disguising racism as political critique in mass media reports on Covid-19 in USA and Germany**

Antonella Ceccagno (Università di Bologna) and Mette Thunø (Aarhus University): **China's bilateral relations with Europe and the new positionings of Chinese diasporas after the initial Covid-19 outbreaks: a focus on Italy**

Aldina Camenisch (University of Amsterdam): **Suffering from and praising the performance of regime legitimacy: How Europeans in mainland China negotiate the COVID-19 crisis**

Emilie Tran (Hong Kong Baptist University) and Yu-chin Tseng (Universität Tübingen): **To Trust or not to trust? Face masks in China-Europe relations — A comparison of Sino-French and Sino-British relations**

Registration: <https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpce2trT8qE9OE9pJwidm4SWolS6JLqOre>

*Panel 2 (2-4 pm): Migrant Labour in Pandemic Times*

Chair: Willy Sier

Digital Coordinator: Aldina Camenisch

Discussant: Shanshan Lan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam

Raviv Litman (University of Amsterdam): **“Best” vs. “pure” English teachers: How the coronavirus pandemic intensified racialized labor at Chinese virtual education companies**

Dina M. Siddiqi (New York University), Hasan Ashraf (Jahangirnagar University Bangladesh): **Prisoners of the body? Class, (im)mobility and pandemic politics**

Linda Musariri Chipatiso (University of Witwatersrand): **“Buyel’ ekhaya” (Go back home): experiences of xenophobia by African migrants during the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa**

Registration: [https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldeyrrD0sHdPASgDAaPzBuvf0e-E\\_6lsU](https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldeyrrD0sHdPASgDAaPzBuvf0e-E_6lsU)

**Thursday 3 December**

*Panel 3 (10-12 am): Navigating Borders and Boundaries*

Chair: Aldina Camenisch

Digital Coordinator: Willy Sier

Discussant: Willem van Schendel, Professor of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam

Leona Vaughn (University of Liverpool), Allen Kiconco (University of Witwatersrand), Isabel Zattu Ziz (Kibabii University Kenya), Nii Kwartelai Quartey and Collins Seymah Smith (James Town Community Theatre, Ghana): **COVID-19 and racialised risk narratives in South Africa, Ghana and Kenya**

Zhen Ma (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity): **Barriers and mobility in China during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Ed Pulford (University of Manchester/University of Amsterdam): **Stasis, rush and state time: crossing Asian borders in a pandemic**

Registration: <https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpd-GoqTtiG9x7OHT0CLclvA3MCtcDraDH>

*Panel 4 (2-4 pm): Negotiating Mobility Regimes*

Chair: Shanshan Lan

Digital Coordinator: Aldina Camenisch

Discussant: Eileen Moyer, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam

Willy Sier (University of Amsterdam): **Evacuation stories from Wuhan: Transnational families, legal consciousness and whiteness in Times of Covid-19**

Jing Yu (University of California, Santa Barbara): **Caught in the middle: Chinese international students studying in the US in times of COVID-19**

Christina Kefala (University of Amsterdam): **China's lost dreamers: How young western entrepreneurs renegotiate their aspirations, skills and racial capital in pandemic times**

Registration: <https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocOmoqz8uE9Nd1o8b3RcPRLto5bL0jJ2>

*Online social time (from 4:30 pm)*

For presenters and discussants only. Registration upon invitation.

**Friday 4 December**

*Panel 5 (10-12 am): Online Racism and Solidarity*

Chair: Ed Pulford

Digital Coordinator: Shanshan Lan

Discussant: Simeng Wang, Research Fellow, French National Centre for Scientific Research

Maria do Mar Castro Varela and Yener Bayramoglu (Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences): **Digital racism in pandemic times**

Sanam Roohi (Georg-August University Göttingen): **Somatic nationalism in covid times: Infodemic, islamophobia and new forms of online transnational muslim solidarities in India**

Ke Ma (University of Amsterdam): **Performing “foreign friend” during the Covid-19 pandemic: transnational white masculinities in Chinese social media**

Maria Avraamidou (University of Cyprus): **Racialization in Twitter debates at times of a border and pandemic crisis: The meanings and ideologies associated with covid-19 hashtags and the refugee issue**

Registration: [https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vc-2trjkjE9bukAvD2Sqsqq\\_TAR148SKN](https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vc-2trjkjE9bukAvD2Sqsqq_TAR148SKN)

*Panel 6 (2-4 pm): Perceptions of Overseas Chinese*

Chair: Willy Sier

Digital Coordinator: Aldina Camenisch

Discussant: Diana Yeh, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, City University of London

Putu Agung Nara Indra Prima Satya (Parahyangan Catholic University), Formas Juitan Lase (Christian University Indonesia): **The framing of Chinese foreign workers in Indonesian online media during the COVID-19 outbreak**

Nobuko Adachi (Illinois State University): Yellow peril redux: **How the COVID-19 pandemic is fostering racial discrimination toward Asian Americans**

Maggi Leung, Yanbo Hao, Özge Bilgili and Rick Dolphijn (Utrecht University): **Racialisation, boundary-marking and protestation of Corona-racism in multicultural Europe**

Luciana Denardi (San Martín National University Buenos Aires) and Clara Baumann (University of Duisburg-Essen): **The effects of COVID-19 on Chinese immigrants in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Registration: <https://uva-live.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwoduqppzMuHtGY8wvXFsH2D0ICIGkt4M2R>