

SYMPOSIUM

A CRITICAL RACE PERSPECTIVE ON U.S. WELFARE REGIMES

June 28, 2023

Program



Program

Welcome & Introduction

10.00 a.m., Audimax HS 9

American Studies, University of Passau

In light of Putin's invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing stream of refugees to Germany or the U.S. for more than a year now, the question of how to successfully integrate refugees and migrants became once more viable. New migratory patterns, routes, and regimes have altered assumptions about migrants and their reception in respective host countries, yet increased the debate on who is deemed worthy of being admitted and thus eligible to obtain welfare rights, citizenship, or access to social benefits.

Our symposium, therefore, provides a critical race perspective on U.S. welfare regimes to examine underlying racialization processes. It shifts the traditional/historic debate from how immigrants are incorporated into the host society to questions of how immigrants and their communities are racialized and thus incorporated into a racialized society that determines access and eligibility to welfare benefits. This new angle allows for a timely and more nuanced debate and a thorough understanding of how immigrants' incorporation functions especially against the backdrop of increasing right-wing populism, an unregulated neoliberal economic system, and a diminishing welfare state.

Claudia Sadowski-Smith addresses in her opening lecture the entangled relationship between race and the welfare state and the resulting inequities in migration. Immigrant incorporation, however, takes place at the state and local levels. Hence, local histories, the dominant sociopolitical climate, or the current racial demographic composition of the population impact redistribution and allocation of resources and accordingly spur or hinder immigrants' incorporation into racialized localities. In two parallel lectures, namely Texas as a conservative and Minnesota as a seemingly progressive state, Andrew Torget and David Hugill respectively examine two contrasting localities.

We are looking forward to a stimulating discussion and welcome you to an exciting symposium!

Grit Grigoleit-Richter

PI: 'Welfare Queens' and 'Losers': a Critical Race and Intersectional Perspective on the U.S. American Welfare State funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Welcome & Introduction

Karsten Fitz & Grit Grigoleit-Richter, University of Passau

10.00 a.m.

Location: Audimax HS 9

Opening Lecture "Critical Race Theory, the Welfare State, and Inequities in U.S. Migration"

Claudia Sadowski-Smith, Arizona State University

10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

Location: Audimax HS 9

Parallel Lectures & Discussion

1 **Texas and the Long Problem of Race in American History**
Andrew Torget, University of North Texas

12.30 - 2.00 p.m.

Location: HK28

Room: SR 001

2 **Settler Colonialism and the Production of Urban Space**
David Hugill, Carleton University, Ottawa

Room: SR 010

Refreshment Break

2.00 - 2.30 p.m.

Location: NK 211 & 212, Dilab-Räume

Interactive Workshop

Marian Ofori-Amofo

2.30 - 4.00 p.m.

Location: NK 211 & 212, Dilab-Räume

Interdisciplinary Round Table Discussion "Let's Talk: Racism in the U.S. and Germany"

Moderator: Grit Grigoleit-Richter

Discussants: Claudia Sadowski-Smith, Andrew Torget, Eunike Piwoni, David Hugill, Edith Ritt-Coulter

4.15 - 5.15 p.m.

Location: NK 211, Dilab-Räume

Wrap-up & Closing

5.15 - 5.30 p.m.

Location: NK 211, Dilab-Räume

Opening Lecture

10.30 a.m. - 12.00 p.m., Audimax HS 9

Critical Race Theory, the Welfare State, and Inequities in U.S. Migration

Claudia Sadowski-Smith
Arizona State University, Department of English

This presentation places recent debates about the differential reception of various refugee populations into the context of migration and critical race theory, including whiteness studies. These debates often also reference the longer histories of racialized US settler colonial policies that have advantaged migration from Europe. By looking at the example of post-Soviet and Ukrainian migration, the presentation shows that these debates often fail to examine the historical role of welfare policies for the integration of newcomers.

Claudia Sadowski-Smith is Professor of English and American Studies at Arizona State University. She is the author of *The New Immigrant Whiteness: Neoliberalism, Race, and Post-Soviet Migration to the United States* (2018) and *Border Fictions: Globalization, Empire, and Writing at the Boundaries of the United States* (2008). She is also the editor of *Globalization on the Line: Culture, Capital, and Citizenship at U.S. Borders* (2002) and the editor or co-editor of a Comparative Literature Studies special journal issue on the cultures of global post/socialism, a Comparative American Studies special issue on comparative border studies, and a Twentieth Century Literature special issue on postsocialist literatures in the United States.

Parallel Lectures & Discussions

12.30 - 2.00 p.m., HK28

1 Texas and the Long Problem of Race in American History

Andrew J. Torget
University of North Texas, Department of History

In this lecture, Andrew Torget will trace the long history of race in the United States through the particular experiences of Texas. Beginning with the earliest settlements of the 1820s, He will explore how fights over race dominated life in Texas from the era of the U.S. Civil War through the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, discussing how the legacies of those struggles remain powerful in the United States through the modern day.

Andrew J. Torget is a historian of nineteenth-century North America at the University of North Texas, where he holds the University Distinguished Teaching Professorship. The author or editor of five books, his most recent, *Seeds of Empire* (2015), won twelve book prizes and awards. An award-winning speaker and educator, he set the Guinness World Record for the World's Longest History Lesson, which was seen online by more than 30 million people. The Dallas Morning News named him a finalist in 2021 for their "Texan of the Year" award for the "uncommon, inspirational impact" of his work.

2 Settler Colonialism and the Production of Urban Space

David Hugill
Carleton University, Ottawa, Geography and Environmental Studies

This presentation argues that the hierarchical politics of settler colonialism are intimately bound up with the production of urban space in the United States. To achieve this objective, it mobilizes historical evidence from the history of Minneapolis in order to demonstrate how that city has been animated by a racialized economy of power that contradicts its "progressive" reputation.

David Hugill is associate professor of geography and environmental studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. He is the co-editor of *Settler City Limits: Indigenous Resurgence and Colonial Violence in the Urban Prairie West* (2019) and author of *Settler Colonial City: Racism and Inequity in Postwar Minneapolis* (2021).

Interactive Workshop

2.30 - 4.00 p.m., NK 211 & 212

Marian Ofori-Amofo, Chance Zahn, Lena Eichenseer, Edith Ritt-Coulter
Universities of Passau and North Texas

The workshop is designed to foster discussion amongst students around the four central themes of the symposium: "Migration," "Settler Colonialism", "Civil-Rights Movement", and the "U.S. Welfare State".

Brief expositions of the topics including interactive maps, videos, or discussion questions will be presented on E-posters by four experts. Following is a student-led group discussion on each topic first and in a final round to exchange ideas and map the intersections between the four central themes to collectively facilitate critical dialogue and raise awareness about racialized structures.

Interdisciplinary Round Table Discussion

4.15 - 5.15 p.m., NK 211

Let's Talk: Racism in the U.S. and Germany

In our final interdisciplinary roundtable discussion, we will engage in a larger and more comparative conversation on underlying racialized structures and the at times not so subtle forms of everyday racism that severely impact immigrants' integration within both the U.S. and Germany.

Moderator: Grit Grigoleit-Richter

Discussants: Claudia Sadowski-Smith, Andrew Torget, David Hugill, Eunike Piwoni, Edith Ritt-Coulter



Research Project 'Welfare Queens' and 'Losers': a Critical Race and Intersectional Perspective on the U.S. American Welfare State

The socio-economic and structural inequalities in the U.S. between the white majority and racialized minorities have been steadily increasing. Current research on the U.S. welfare state seeks an explanation in the interaction of state, market, and family. Categories that create social inequality such as race and gender and their interactions, however, are rarely considered in the formation, implementation, and outcomes of welfare policies. The project „Welfare Queens' and 'Losers'“ addresses this research gap: Based on theoretical approaches of Critical Race Studies, this intersectional analysis shows for the first time the interconnectedness of race and gender in the development of the welfare state and scrutinizes underlying power structures.

The interdisciplinary research project presents an important contribution to the understanding and impact of racism and thus strengthens the American Studies at the University of Passau with the research focus on Ethnic and Racial Studies.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is funding the project according to the funding guideline area studies for an initial period of three years (March 2021 – February 2024).



The PICAIS (Passau International Centre for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies) is the University's central, cross-project platform for academic excellence and interdisciplinary research. The PICAIS's research promotion activities are particularly oriented towards the University's strategic guiding themes, whereby the centre:

- supports innovative interdisciplinary project and event ideas
- integrates visiting early career researchers and researchers of international standing from Germany and abroad into the University's academic landscape
- creates networking opportunities for researchers

Beyond that, the PICAIS is instrumental in disseminating academic and scientific research findings to the general public. It also acts as an interface between academia and society to promote dialogue between basic research and the social, economic and cultural actors of a networked society.

The PICAIS regularly issues calls for proposals in order to allocate resources for the initiation of outstanding research projects and for international networking in line with the above-mentioned objectives.



Professorship for American Studies/Cultural and Media Studies
Research Project ‚Welfare Queens‘ and ‚Losers‘: a Critical Race and
Intersectional Perspective on the U.S. American Welfare State