

## Workshop proposal for EWIS, Krakow, June 26-29

### Title: Rethinking Race, Justice and Equality in Global Politics

#### Workshop conveners:

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Questions of justice, rights and equality are urgent problems in contemporary global politics. Only recently (and in part only within the field of post-colonial studies) has international politics acknowledged the significance of race (or ethnicity) in understanding how these issues operate in different socio-political contexts and how they impact communities differently. However, experiences of racial injustices, inequality and rights are not only a “post-colonial question”. Current Western politics is full of such examples: the UK government, for example, has recognized some of the structural difficulties facing marginalized groups, pledging to ameliorate conditions and combat discrimination. On becoming Prime Minister in June 2016 Theresa May emphasised a commitment to improving equality by denouncing the ‘burning injustice’ that “(if) you’re black, you’re treated more harshly by the criminal justice system than if you’re white, if you’re born poor, you will die on average nine years earlier than others, if you’re a white, working-class boy, you’re less likely than anybody else in Britain to go to university”. Similarly, recent events (numerous refugee crises, the Grenfell Tower fire, the Windrush scandal, the 2016 EU Referendum, the rise of the right in Europe, USA and South America, and various Black Lives Matter movements) have pushed the everyday experience of racial injustice, socio-economic deprivation and social justice to the forefront of local and global politics. While solutions to injustices cannot be generalised, understanding the causes, colonial histories/legacies, everyday experiences, could facilitate much needed discussion of these issues in global politics. As these are not local or isolated struggles, it is pertinent that these questions are opened on a global scale - within the discipline of international politics - rather than remaining in the domain of local politics.

This workshop will thus concern itself with questions such as:

- What are the ways in which we could re-think the existing practice and experiences of injustice?
- How colonial legacies impact ways in which rights, justice and inequality is experienced by marginal communities and/or understood in scholarly discourse?
- What methodological tools could best capture the experience of racial injustice (methods of surveying/scholarly engaging with ethnic minority groups)?
- What or where is the emancipatory potential of community organising or international campaign for social and political justice?
- How can practices of active political participation on local, national as well as on the international levels (trans-national movements) alter the experience injustices and empower communities?

The workshop will address these questions in an interdisciplinary way. We welcome papers addressing these questions, for example, theoretically - by attempting to construct a new theory or a different methodological approach; by introducing different narratives/experiences; by highlighting marginalised experiences, by developing different methodological tools, or by bringing together scholarly and activist work. We invite contributions from across the field of international politics and disciplines such as sociology, political theory, migration studies, cultural studies, education and political science. We also invite contributions from across the methodological spectrum.