

Critical approaches to studying apartheid as a concept and as a reality.

Workshop conveners: Moriel Ram, mori.ram@newcastle.ac.uk (Newcastle University) and Jakub Zahora, jakub.zahora@fsv.cuni.cz (University of New York in Prague)

The workshop pushes forward the debates on what the notion of apartheid affords in terms of coming to terms with the current political conditions. It is concerned with the power-laden processes of division, separation and fragmentation, whether on the urban, national or global scale. Jacques Derrida's often-cited text on apartheid deems the term 'racism's last word' (Derrida & Kamuf, 1985). The final word on apartheid, however, is far from being written. Historically associated with South Africa's regime of white supremacy between 1948 and 1994 (Dubow, 2014), apartheid has also been codified as a crime in international law (Bultz, 2013), become an analytical concept for investigating various axes of domination and oppression, and entered the world's political vocabulary (Besterman, 2019; Human et al., 2007; Amnesty, 2017).

It is thus apparent that the notion of apartheid has acquired global currency and reach, and needs to be investigated with attention to its international and global dimensions. On the one hand, practices complicit in maintaining apartheid conditions have circulated between countries. On the other, apartheid is becoming a notion that can connect various emancipatory struggles across diverse contexts and build alliances against repressive forms of governance.

Therefore, whether conceived as a historical period, a legal category, or a contemporary global regime, we need to examine the connective elements through which we can unpack apartheid's multiple meanings. Accordingly, the workshop focuses how "apartheid" serves as a node that connects a plethora of various policies, claims, discourses, actors, means to deploy power, and ways to challenge it. It seeks to address the analytical possibilities stemming from the different meanings of apartheid and to explore methodological and conceptual frameworks to approach apartheid's varied applications. In other words, the workshop aims to explore apartheid as a multifaceted concept that requires critical examination and a reality that must be critically challenged.

The workshop then aims to tackle several interconnected topics:

- Apartheid as a legacy and a residue
- When and how does apartheid start and end?
- The 'post'-apartheid condition and reality
- Contemporary meanings and comparative formulations for studying apartheid
- Apartheid in international law
- The apartheid city in theory and practice
- Reading apartheid from the Global South
- Apartheid imageries and imaginaries in fiction and popular culture
- Conceptual relevance of apartheid to current planetary challenges from climate crisis to mass migration and artificial intelligence

The workshop is intended as a first step in developing a research network dedicated to studying apartheid in its various iterations and understandings. We further envision a special issue or edited volume emerging from this cooperation.