

Racial Capitalism and Uneven Development in Afro-Asia: Comparison, Connection, Critique

Call for papers

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Convenors

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The theory, history, and politics of racial capitalism has powerfully shaped recent research agendas and sparked debate among scholars of capitalism, development, and international relations. Much of the existing scholarship focuses on the history and legacy of the slave trade in the Atlantic world - that geo-historical and cultural formation Paul Gilroy famously called the "Black Atlantic". In Geography and related disciplines, recent scholarship has proliferated around racial capitalism's contours especially in the Americas. But racial capitalism works differently in every context - and the role it plays in the extension and intensification of imperial and neo-imperial relations across Africa and Asia remains understudied.

We invite scholars of development, capitalism, and international politics to submit works-in-progress (including but not limited to journal articles, book/dissertation chapters or book proposals) that interrogate the historical and contemporary operations of racial capitalism, or racialized forms of uneven development, in African and Asian contexts. Proposals that interrogate the Black Atlantic in a world-comparative framework are also welcome. Transregional approaches are encouraged - especially studies that compare across or draw connections between different sites in Afro-Asia. Studies deploying textual analysis and interpretation (including of archival, policy, literary, and visual sources) and/or field-based or ethnographic methods are welcome. Finally, we also invite theoretically oriented papers focused on identifying and critiquing the suppositions and implications of racial capitalism as a concept. Proposals may include, but are not limited to, the following topics as they intersect with the history, theory, and politics of racial capitalism:

- Comparative/global urbanization
- Extractivism and neo-extractivism
- Imperial legacies and after-lives
- Infrastructure-led development
- Natural resource geopolitics
- Tourism and uneven development
- Slavery and indentured labour
- Plantation economies
- Race and the capitalocene
- Social reproduction and/or feminist geopolitics
- Hazards and toxicity
- Indigenous geopolitics
- Railways, ports and logistics
- "Global China" and/or the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
- Postcolonial, Marxist, inter-Asian, or Indian Ocean Region approaches to racial capitalism

The call for papers closes on **11 February, 2025**. We strongly encourage submissions from global South located applicants. Participants should note the funding provided by the [EISA Mobility Fund](#).