Call for Interventions

Race and Racism in Critical Security Studies: Reparative possibilities for a field of study and practice

The spectres of race and racism haunt the field of critical security studies, not just the broader discipline of International Relations (Anievas, Manchanda and Shilliam, 2015; Carrozzi, Danewid and Pauls, 2017; Eriksson Baaz and Verweijen, 2018; Moffette and Vadasaria, 2016; Hobson 2012). Inspired by these challenges, Security Dialogue seeks to publish a Forum of short interventions engaging the future of the field.

Questions have long been raised about the Eurocentric, Anglophone and colonial orientation of the field; the question of racism is distinct if related (Grovogui, 2001; Vitalis, 2015; Muppidi, 2018). Rutazibwa argues that ‘racism is the oil in the system of colonial power that makes a sustained discrimination of and violence against certain people not only possible but also invisible and acceptable,’ and so we wish to follow her call ‘to contribute to a radically different, anti- or non-racist IR and everyday’ (2016).

We are eager to include the issues of methodologies and methods, mentoring, publication and professionalization in our discussions as well as epistemological and ontological critiques and advances. As a scholarly community and as a journal, we wish to solicit imaginative and creative reflections on the ‘reparative possibilities’ (Sedgwick, 1997) of our philosophical and critical theoretical foundations. We also want to engage scholars who have incorporated these questions of race and racism, diversity and equity into their reframing of existing critical theoretical traditions. This forward-looking conversation will include accountings for the cost of those assumptions and limited perspectives at the foundation of the field, but also projections about how critical security studies might move forward in novel and ethico-politically committed ways.

We seek interventions of 2,000-5,000 words, which will undergo a peer review supervised by Marsha Henry and Claudia Aradau from the journal’s editorial board. We anticipate that most contributions will follow conventional academic style, but we are open to considering alternative formats, in discussion with the editors.

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References


