

Title: Rethinking the Concept of “Race” in Gender Studies in the Nordic context

In this panel, we are interested in reflecting on the implications of the US dominance of knowledge production globally for theorizations of difference. While there has been a significant amount of debate regarding the travel of intersectionality in gender studies in the Nordic context, the travel of US-based racial categories in particular have received less attention. The panel will revolve around the following questions:

- In what ways do US theorizations of racial difference travel to the Nordic countries? What appears to be productive or limiting about those traveling concepts?
- Do the theorizations of racial and/or ethnic difference in the Nordic context travel too? Why or why not?
- How do feminist critiques of imperialism lend nuance to understandings of the complex histories and current practices of racialization and ethnicization?

Responsible: SKOK research group, Centre for Women’s and Gender Research, University of Bergen

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Moderator

Redi Koobak is Postdoctoral Research Fellow at SKOK, UiB, Norway. She specializes in transnational feminist studies with a focus on discourses of gender, race and sexuality, including postcolonial and postsocialist feminisms, intersectionality, visual culture studies, feminist theory and epistemology, and creative writing methodologies.

Panelists

Randi Gressgård is Professor of gender research at SKOK, UiB and affiliated with the research unit International Migration and Ethnic Relations (IMER), University of Bergen. She holds a Doctoral degree in sociology (Dr.polit.), and has published extensively on migrations & minority issues, such as multiculturalism, postcolonialism, citizenship, democracy, borders & boundaries, nationalism and geopolitics.

Mira C. Skadegård is currently an Assistant Professor at Aalborg University in Copenhagen, Denmark. Her focus is primarily on structural and systemic forms of oppression and discrimination in everyday contexts. Mira’s approach is interdisciplinary, and draws on de/postcolonialist, gender, whiteness, and critical race studies. Issues of equality, diversity, structural discrimination, and human rights are at the core of her focus, and her work revolves around issues of justice, local politics, human rights, and inequality. As a former Senior Advisor in corporate social

responsibility, Mira works with analysis, policy development, and consultation in regards to anti-discrimination, equality, diversity, and equal opportunities in the context of media, organizations, states, and other broad policy frameworks. Mira is a public speaker and contributes to the public debate as well as several Danish anti-discrimination organizations. Her publications include academic as well non-academic writing.

Victoria Kawesa is a PhD candidate in Gender Studies & Antiracism at Linköping University in Sweden, Afrophobia Expert, Socionom, Speaker, Lecturer, Writer & Diversity Expert. Her dissertation aims to explore how subjectivity, materiality, agency, power and affect are interlinked in the process of becoming a Black Ubuntu Bulamu Feminist and the enactment of a Black Mask subjectivity as methodologies of the oppressed. She uses Feminist New materialism of subjectivity, black feminist perspectives, critical race and whiteness studies, postcolonial/decoloniality, phenomenology of whiteness and blackness.

Dinara Podgornova Yangeldina is a PhD candidate at SKOK, UiB, studying how intersectional feminist discourses travel across borders and how they get used, transformed and appropriated in Russian-speaking feminist online spaces. Her PhD project is situated within debates on geopolitics of knowledge production within gender studies and feminist activism; translation and transnational circulation of feminist texts, theories and activist frames and feminist critiques of intersectionality.