

Summaries

Iman Attia and Mariam Popal: Decolonial Anti-Muslim Racism Decolonial. Contrapunctual Readings of Western Discourses on Islam

In reference to historical-discursive antecedents of modern racism, in particular anti-Muslim racism during the »Reconquista«, the two authors approach current rhetoric on crisis within a postcolonial frame and in light of new migration movements. These movements are mostly a result of war and the majority of migrants come from Muslim countries. On the one hand the authors discuss parallels to other forms of racism and plead for analyses that focus on the overlapping of various forms of racism that became effective globally. On the other hand, anti-Muslim racism is read contrapunctually, based on the widespread terms in this context, »crisis« and »critique«. The authors suggest other approaches to »mobility« and »migration« considering the background of hegemonic structures of power and continuous forms of racism.

Kien Nghi Ha: Societal Coloniality – On the Difficulty to Reappraise Structural Racism

The insufficient and failed historical reappraisal of Germany's colonial history can be understood as societal coloniality. This continual coloniality forms the basis for today's functioning of structural and institutional racism in Germany, which in turn is not being acknowledged as such due to colonial power relations and thought patterns. Institutional entanglements with the »National Socialist Underground« (NSU) racist murders as much as discriminating integration policies that use stigmatization and repressive sanctions as their tools, demonstrate that racism is not viewed as a structural problem. These examples illustrate how colonial perception patterns and whiteness as a dominant perspective forms the political identity and the functioning of liberal and democratic institutions.

Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez: »Refugee Crisis«, Coloniality and Racism: Thinking the Crisis of Capitalism through another grammar

The author discusses the »refugee crisis« with regard to the coloniality of power and racism by expanding on Stephen Castles's notion of the »migration-asylum nexus«. She explores the relationship between racism and European national myths; discusses the link between racism and the migration-asylum nexus; and relates the latter to coloniality and labour migration. Through discussion at these three levels, she examines the tension between the dynamics of labour-migration recruitment and racist nationalist sentiments. Her analysis illustrates how local political negotiations are set within the historical entanglement of colonialism, racism and capitalism.

Imad Mustafa: The Discursive Construction of »Muslim Terrorism« in the Context of »Western« Dominance Strategies

In recent years there has been a spike in the occurrence of Muslims being depicted in the media as »terrorists«, threat to »our« security as well as way of life, and eventually antagonistic to »our« democratic values. The author argues that these representations though have a long history in Europe which can be traced back to the times of the so called

»Reconquista«. Not only are they being used as tools to legitimize neo-imperial wars for oil and hegemony in the Middle East, but also to heighten control over European citizens by curtailing freedoms, introducing alleged security measures and laws as well as bringing forward the militarization of the security apparatuses.

Markus Schmitz: Desiring Refugees: Reflections on the Psycho(patholo)logy of the German Refugee-Debate after the Fairytale of Borderless Compassion

Drawing on recent mass-media images and political imaginaries of Muslim refugees, Schmitz analyses the representational dynamics of the German refugee-debate from a psychoanalytical point of view. Tracing the discursive transformation in Germany's refugee politics, it explores the forms of gender and genderness in and of the representation of refugees. A particular focus is placed on the dialectic of body, territory, and assimilationist desires. Criticizing the shifting Orientalist exploitation of the gendered Syrian refugee's body (both desired and threatening) as a symbolic side of contestation over national refugee policy, the author pleads for political solidarity.

Jens Kastner: Demonstrations. Aspects of Aesthetic Resistance between Post-Conceptual Art and Social Movements

The intersections between artistic production and social movements are not self-evident. This contribution deals with the possibilities of an adequate theoretical description of the junctures that are nevertheless taking place. Kastner makes the case that the congregation of social movements and artistic practices express strategies of aesthetic resistance. This resistance is aesthetic insofar as it consists of artistic methods on the one hand, and targets aesthetics in a broader sense as a modus of perception and thinking on the other. Discussing two pitfalls of the theoretical debate, the article provides a model for conceptualizing the intersections between art and social movements on the basis of historical examples of artistic practices.

Friedemann Affolderbach: Contradictions in Definitions of Popular Sovereignty

In the context of the German discussion the author asks what is meant by »people's sovereignty«. What contradictions and conflicts permeate this concept and its interpretative coherences? How can sovereignty be articulated as an actively self-determined moment of resistance from below? Considering Walter Benjamin's essay, »On the Critique of Violence«, it is possible to define resistive dimensions from a perspective of the subaltern. If resistance is broken and rendered passive in this context, sovereignty in the perspective of a liberated society—speaking with Ernst Bloch and his reflections on »natural law and human dignity«—can be understood as a correlation of freedom, equality and fraternity. This is the impulse of the subaltern to no longer be an object but to gain collective agency, and to counter the determination of the self. The »objective possibilities« of collective action are the »raw material« from which the political develops from below.