

SOP77022 Racism and Resistance

Module Type Option (Identities and Cultures of Europe)

Term / hours Hilary / 22

ECTS 10

Coordinator(s) Dr David Landy

(LANDYDA@tcd.ie)

Module Description

Racism and anti-racism are not merely matters of opinion, they are willed collective actions. This module examines how they are expressed in concrete form by examining both their ideologies and a key vehicle through which they are realized – social movements. By viewing racism and anti-racism as collective political acts rather than expressions of individual understanding or ignorance, this module examines how they are articulated and practiced. The module examines key sites of contemporary racist and anti-racist political activism, looking at examples such as far-right online organising in Ireland and the UK, the Black Lives Matter movement and pro- and anti-refugee solidarity activism in Europe.

Drawing on theories of social movements as well as interrogating the rhetoric of racism and anti-racism, the module firstly examines the rationale and practices of far-right and racist movements. Anti-racist groups have faced both the articulated racism of these groups as well as a more hidden but deeply embedded racism within society, and the module examines the issues such groups face – and how they have responded to these challenges. A key question is whether anti-racist groups have further embedded the language of race and racism in political life. The problems and possibilities of anti-racist activism are examined both with respect to theoretical discussions surrounding anti-racism and post-race, but also through critically analysing the vehicles through which anti-racism is practiced – NGOs and social movements.

Topics

1. Far right and racist movements and ideologies
2. Theorising social movements and NGOs
3. The history and practice of anti-racism
4. Theoretical critique of anti-racism.
5. Case studies: Black Lives Matter, Migrant solidarity movements, European Islamophobic movements, The alt-right and US racist movement

Working Methods

The module is delivered in two-hour seminar slots consisting of a lecturing input, student presentations, and group discussion. Students are expected to read in advance and participate in class.

Assessment

The module is assessed by an end of term 3,000 word essay. The submission deadline is **Monday 21 April 2025 at 5pm**. These should be submitted to Turnitin on Blackboard. Without an authorised extension, the mark given for the essay will be lowered by 10%.

Indicative bibliography

The following is an indicative reading list. Required and recommended readings will be provided each week on Blackboard.

- Almeida, Paul (2019) *Social Movements: The Structure of Collective Mobilization*
- Oakland: University of California Press
- Lentin, Ronit and Elena Moreo (2012) *Migrant Activism and Integration from Below in Ireland*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Nagle, Angela (2017) *Kill All Normies: Online culture wars from 4chan and Tumblr to Trump and the alt-right*
- Nyers, Peter and Kim Rygiel (2012) *Citizenship, Migrant Activism and the Politics of Movement* by (eds). Abingdon: Routledge
- Pilkington, Hilary (2016) *Loud and Proud: Passion and Politics in the English Defence League*
- Solomos, John (ed). (2020). *Routledge international handbook of contemporary racisms*. Abingdon, Routledge,
- Snow, David, Sarah Soule, and Hanspeter Kriesi (eds). (2007) *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Titley, Gavan (2020) *Is free speech racist?* Oxford and New York, Polity Press
- Tufekci, Zeynep (2017) *Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest*.
- van Dijk, Teun (2021) *Antiracist discourse. Theory and history of a macromovement* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the module students should be able to:

- LO1 Apply social movement theories to racism and anti-racism activism;
- LO2 Explain key contemporary conflicts surrounding racism and anti-racism;
- LO3 Develop an understanding of contemporary far-right and racist movements;
- LO4 Evaluate contemporary debates surrounding anti-racism and post-race.