

WORKSHOP

Transnational Entanglements of Racial Anthropology: History and Legacy

Sept. 11-13, 2025 | Berlin & online

How did racial anthropology take shape—and spread—through global scientific networks? How should we confront the enduring legacies of racism in science? Departing from the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics in Berlin, this workshop traces the transnational entanglements of racial knowledge in science and politics.

Organized by:

Dr. Manuela Bauche

Prof. Dr. Hande Birkalan-Gedik

Dr. Thiago Pinto Barbosa



Funded by:



PROGRAM OF THE WORKSHOP

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In-person attendance of paper sessions is restricted to invited guests. The evening events (keynote lecture and book reading) are open to everyone. Online attendance of all parts of the workshop is possible via the following links:

Thursday: <https://nomadit-co-uk.zoom.us/j/89804339971?pwd=sXLEU1B5XWvRu3Q1FurWPRhpOARWz7.1>

Friday: <https://nomadit-co-uk.zoom.us/j/85683553165?pwd=bQhYgSrXVJkGEHyRjQZ2nmGVCROX7L.1>

Saturday: <https://nomadit-co-uk.zoom.us/j/82901405394?pwd=TZlPi3aSQbApNYZQAqUca128t5qSCF.1>

Thursday, Sept 11

14:15–15:00 Introduction:

Dr. Manuela Bauche (FU Berlin), Prof. Dr. Hande Birkalan-Gedik (GU Frankfurt) & Dr. Thiago Pinto Barbosa (U Leipzig)

15:00–16:30 Paper Session 1:

- Weicheng Huang (FU Berlin) – From “Racial Crossing” to “Migration and Isolation of Culture”: Tao Yunkui (1904–1944) and the Reassembling of German Anthropology on China’s Ethnic Frontier
 - Dr. Hoda Bandeh-Ahmadi (U Michigan) – tba.
- Discussion: Dr. Udo Mischek & Dr. Lisa Gottschall

17:30–19:00 Keynote Lecture:

(**PUBLIC EVENT**, FU Berlin, Ihnestraße 21, Room A)

- Prof. Dr. Hans-Walter Schmuhl (U Bielefeld), author of “The Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics, 1927–1945: Crossing Boundaries” (2008)

Saturday, Sept 13

9:30–11:30 Paper Session 5:

- Prof. Dr. Amos Morris-Reich (Tel Aviv U) – Race and Antisemitism: a Historical and Philosophical Re-evaluation
- Dr. Katja Geisenhainer (Frobenius Inst.) – The Relationship between early German-language Ethnology and Physical Anthropology
- Prof. Dr. Hande Birkalan-Gedik (GU Frankfurt) – From Dahlem to Ankara: Afterlives of Racial Science, Knowledge Transfer, and the Turkish Anthropology

Discussion: Prof. Dr. Marius Turda, Dr. Hoda Bandeh-Ahmadi & Dr. Thiago Pinto Barbosa

12:00–13:00 Wrapping Up

Friday, Sept 12

9:00–10:30 Paper Session 2:

- Prof. Dr. Katharina Schramm (U Bayreuth) – The Politics of Lambs’ Hair: Circulating Ideas about Race and Phenotype in Colonial Karakul Breeding
- Lukas Alex (U Bayreuth) – Epistemic One-Way-Street: Eugenic Knowledge and Population Genetics in the Legacy of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity, and Eugenics

Discussion: Prof. Dr. Carola Sachse & Lisette Jong

13:30–15:00 Paper Session 3:

- Lisette Jong (U Amsterdam) – Old Bones in New Databases: Historical Insights into Race, Statistics, and Ancestry Estimation in Anthropology
- Prof. Dr. Carola Sachse (U Vienna) – Uyghurs in the Spotlight of Evolutionary and Forensic Genetics: The End of a Long-standing German-Chinese Scientific Collaboration

Discussion: Prof. Dr. Katharina Schramm & Lukas Alex

15:30–17:00 Paper session 4:

- Dr. Lisa Gottschall (ÖAK-IKW, Vienna) – Anthropological Research on “Colonial Soldiers” in WWII POW Camps: A Preliminary Report
- Prof. Dr. Marius Turda (Oxford Brookes U) – Racial Science in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust: The Case of Dr Gh. Stroescu

Discussion: Prof. Dr. Amos Morris-Reich & Dr. Katja Geisenhainer

18:30–20:00 Book reading and discussion:

(**PUBLIC EVENT**, FHXB Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Museum)

- An Indian student in a German school of racial anthropology and eugenics: Presentation of the book “Iru: The Remarkable Life of Irawati Karve” (2024), with authors Urmilla Deshpande and Thiago Pinto Barbosa, discussed by Lisette Jong.