

Department of Human Sciences “Riccardo Massa”  
Department of Sociology and Social Research  
SWAB – Shadows of Slavery in West Africa and Beyond. A Historical Anthropology ERC  
Grant Agreement 313737

**International Workshop**

## *Racial legacies*

*Historical and contemporary dynamics in Africa and the Middle East*

**7 November 2017**



*National anti-racist campaign, Morocco 2014*

In recent times, growing public and media attention to racial discrimination and colour prejudices against sub-Saharan Africans and African slave descendants in Africa and the Middle East has opened societal and political debates on the issue of “anti-black racism” and its relations with the legacies of slavery. Novel political practices, languages and subjectivities are emerging from local anti-racist movements and debates. What histories and vocabularies are mobilized to raise public awareness and attain political goals? How is “blackness” embodied, experienced, represented and contested by different social actors (e.g. slave descendants of African origins, *haratin*, Sub-Saharan African migrants, students or professionals)? How is “race,” with its complex relations with ideas of “colour,” “origin,” “blood” and “descent,” locally conceptualized? How do the shadows of slavery overlap, and interweave, with contemporary socio-political dynamics? How can we think of the relation between current expressions of “racism” and historical experiences of slavery?

With this workshop, we aim to unpack the “racial issue” in different post-slavery contexts in Africa and the Middle East, by interrogating its connections with local histories of slavery and their contemporary legacies. Bringing together scholars working on “race” in a variety of settings, we hope to develop a fresh discussion on the complex intersections of historical and present dynamics shaping contemporary forms of “blackness,” black identities and belonging; cultural and artistic expressions; racial discrimination and activism based on specific constructions of “race.”

## *Programme*

### ***Morning: Aula Pagani, Building U7, 3<sup>o</sup> floor***

- 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome & Opening—Prof. Alice Bellagamba & Prof. Giampaolo Nuvolati, University of Milano-Bicocca
- 9:15 – 9:30 *Racial legacies and contemporary predicaments*  
Introduction by Laura Menin, University of Milano-Bicocca
- 9:30 – 10:30 *Reading Race in Africa & the Middle East*  
Open Lecture by Prof. Bruce Hall, University of California, Berkeley  
*Discussion*
- 10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45– 11:30 *Afro-Qataris: Identity and Belonging*  
Aliieu Manjang, Qatar University  
*Response:* Marco Gardini, Università Milano-Bicocca
- 11:30 – 12:15 *Are Haratines black Moors or just black? IRA Mauritanie and the “racialization” of the anti-slavery struggle*  
Giuseppe Maimone, University of Catania  
*Response:* Alice Bellagamba, Università Milano-Bicocca
- 12:15 – 14:00 Lunch break

### ***Afternoon: Aula “R. Massa”, Building U6, 4<sup>o</sup> floor***

- 14:15 – 15:00 *Arba’in and Bakhshu’s Nūhah: Ambivalent Rhythms in Gulf Slavery History*  
Parisa Vaziri, University of California, Irvine  
*Response:* Alessandra Brivio, Università Milano-Bicocca
- 15:00 – 15:45 *“Black people, white hearts:” race, colour and descent in contemporary Yemen*  
Luca Nevola, University of Milano Bicocca  
*Response:* Luca Ciabbari, Università di Milano
- 15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 – 16:45 *Meanings of blackness in Tunisia. Race and slavery in a Southern community of slave descendants*  
Marta Scaglioni, University of Bayreuth/ University of Milano-Bicocca  
*Response:* Ismael Montana, Northern Illinois University
- 16:45 – 17:30 *“Dans la peau d’un noir”: Senegalese students and young professionals in Rabat, Morocco*  
Laura Menin, University of Milano-Bicocca  
*Response:* Valerio Colosio, University of Sussex/ Univ. Milano-Bicocca
- 17:30 – 18:00 Closing comments –Prof. Ismael Montana, Northern Illinois University  
Open discussion

All welcome!

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