

WHITE SPACES POSTGRADUATE NETWORK

MEMBERS

Madeline-Sophie Abbas

Madeline-Sophie Abbas is a PhD candidate at the University of Leeds in the department of Sociology and Social Policy. Her research explores the production and performance of identities through 'Muslim' and 'Anglo-British' encounters by engaging with processes of racial othering and the (re)construction of subjectivities. She is interested in the role of visual schemas for racialising these encounters as well as points of interconnections which traverse and challenge racialised boundaries. Her research argues that binaries of self/other need to be dismantled in order to re-think how communities (dis)engage with each other. She is advancing the metaphor of the vampire to challenge idealised conceptions of white identities associated with practices of 'civilisation' during the 'war on terror,' in order to explore subjugated identities exhibited through practices of terror against Muslims.

Her research engages with critical whiteness studies in order to challenge racial and is using the vampire as a metaphor in which to think through this

- Engagement with critical whiteness studies
- Role of visual schemas
- Multidirectional memory - points of interconnections
- Identity/identification
- Performativity/production of identities through encounters
- Third Space - theoretical - points 'in-between'

Metaphor of vampire - think through binary of self/other underpinning conceptions of civilizing/terrorizing- expose 'displaced self' in imaginings of 'white' Westerns identity

Julio Decker

Júlio Decker studied Anglo-American History (major), Medieval and Modern History (minor) and Political Sciences (minor) at the University of Cologne. Since February 2008 he has been working on a Ph.D. project at the University of Leeds, UK, analyzing the history of the Immigration Restriction League (IRL) between 1894 and 1924. In his project, he investigates the IRL as a nodal point of the discourses of scientific racism, eugenics and public discussions about the so-called new immigrants. He is especially interested in the micro politics of racial othering, the construction of white identities and the transnational discursive exchange between the US and white settler colonies around the globe. He analyzes the history of the IRL and the emerging apparatus of border controls through a Foucauldian lens, combing theories of governmentality, biopolitics and subjectivation with critical whiteness studies

Jennifer Dulek

Jennifer Dulek is currently working toward her Masters and Educational Specialist degrees in School Psychology at Loyola University Chicago. In the fall of 2009, she completed a qualitative study at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign entitled, "Making the Grade: Examining the Racial Awareness of White Preservice Teachers."

The study examined the racial consciousness of white students in the Elementary Education program and their lack of perceived preparedness and desire to begin teaching careers in racially diverse settings. Jennifer's current focus is on helping to improve students' access to education and promote greater academic success among minority populations. She is actively involved in urban schools where race and class play indisputable roles in shaping the nation's achievement gap

Ruth Martin

Ruth Martin is a PhD Candidate in the History Department at the University of Cambridge, working with Professor Tony Badger. She completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at Durham University. Her master's thesis focused on the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, anti-communism and attempts to foster African-American opposition to integration. Her doctoral dissertation analyzes the tentative coalitions formed by New York-based civil liberties groups who defended politically unpopular groups in the courts. The project focuses primarily on the American Civil Liberties Union, Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and National Lawyers Guild's strategies from the 1950s to the 1970s. During the fall semester 2009, she was an Exchange Fellow at the Boston University American Political History Institute and in spring 2010, she was a Gilder Lehrman fellow at the Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library, New York. Currently based at the New York University Center for the United States and the Cold War, she is a peer reviewer for the 'Southern Historian' journal (University of Alabama), and has recently contributed an entry on George Crockett Jr. to the 'African American National Biography' project (Harvard University).

Noémi Michel

Noémi Michel is PhD Student in Political Science at the University of Geneva. Her PhD dissertation addresses issues of racialized symbolic politics in postcolonial Europe. She investigates two recent controversies: the controversy over the law on the "positive role of colonization" in France and the controversy over the political campaign's poster which stages white sheep kicking out a black sheep of their territory in Switzerland. She considers these two debates as emblematic examples of debates on the State's management of public words and images which potentially generate "injury" upon racialized groups and individuals. This dissertation - as well as her general research interests - can be located in the field of critical and poststructuralist approaches in political theory questioning issues on equality and difference. They also draw upon postcolonial, critical race and whiteness studies. Since discussion on "race" and "postcoloniality" remain very marginal in Swiss social sciences, she co-founded with Manuela Honnegger a research group named "thinking postcolonial and racial difference" (POST IT) in order to generate collective reflections on these topics.

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Barbara Samaluk

[Barbara Samaluk](#) is a PhD research student at the Centre for Research in Equality and Diversity (BUSMAN) on Queen Mary, University of London. She has been working in human rights and antidiscrimination filed for several years in various European

countries. She has an interdisciplinary background ranging from pedagogy and adult education, communication studies and equality and diversity field. In her PhD research she is focusing on commodification processes of migrant labour by exploring the dialectical relationship between structure and agency through discursive and extra discursive events. Her specific focus lies in uncovering how (embodied) cultural and other symbolic capital is being appropriated in the UK labour market with regard to migrant workers from Central and Eastern European countries and what are its effects on diverse Accession 8 nationals working in the service sector. By that she aims to uncover racialization processes that are hidden behind 'meritocratic' capitalist system as well as to recognise and give voice to resistance discourses and transformation practices that arise from the symbolic positioning.