

White Privilege and Structural Discrimination in Higher Education: *Perspectives from Research, Strategies for Change*

A collaborative project of the international
FORTHEM Lab Diversity and Migration

Kick-off Event

04.03.2022 | 10:00–13:00 CET | *Online*

Registration: [<https://www.sozialethik.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/kick-off/>]

With this project we are fostering a confrontation with the fact of institutional racism within higher education in Europe. The history of racism is entangled with the history of university and of science, and still today universities in Europe are to a large extent white, upper-class, male institutions. But, at the same time, universities have a potential to develop further critical approaches in the different sciences and to implement strategies aiming at the reduction of discrimination based on these insights, having thereby also an impact on society. Therefore, this project wants to connect theoretical insights with reflections on the concrete situations and experiences in our universities and beyond, and to initiate an exchange on strategies how to reduce discrimination and exclusion.

This kick-off event will serve as an introduction to the topic and to the project itself. It is supported by the Diversity Coordination Office of the JGU in Mainz.

Further activities in spring and summer 2022 will include a short lecture series, an international seminar, and workshops with more practical focuses. Further contributions are warmly welcome!

Target group of the kick-off event:

>>> Public Opening Lecture: Everyone interested in the topic, within the FORTHEM Alliance and beyond

>>> Project Presentation, Networking and Feedback Session: All members of the FORTHEM Alliance universities and their partners



Programme

10:00 Welcome & Introduction with greeting from Vice President
Prof. Stephan Jolie (Mainz)

10:15 Public Opening Lecture by Prof. Kalwant Bhopal

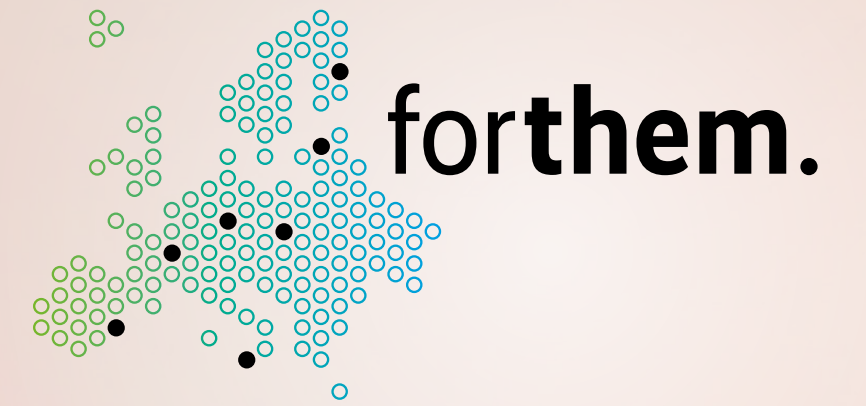
Black and Minority Ethnic experiences in higher education: social justice, inclusion and white privilege

This lecture will examine how Black and minority ethnic staff and students remain marginalised in higher education. It will provide statistical data on the inequalities experienced by staff and students, followed by empirical research on Black and minority ethnic academics in UK and US higher education. By drawing on empirical research, the lecture will also explore how processes of whiteness and white privilege work to perpetuate the white space of higher education. The lecture will conclude by examining possible ways forward for higher education to engage with a socially just agenda for the inclusion of all groups.

12:00 Project Presentation, Networking and Feedback Session

Participants can get informed on the upcoming events, give their feedback and to engage in the further development of the project.

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Kalwant Bhopal

is Professor of Education and Social Justice and Director of the Centre on Research on Race and Education at the University of Birmingham, UK. Kalwant's research focuses on the achievements and experiences of minority ethnic groups in education. She has conducted research on exploring discourses of identity and intersectionality examining the lives of Black minority ethnic groups as well as examining the marginal position of Gypsies and Travellers. Her research specifically explores how processes of racism, exclusion and marginalisation operate in predominantly White spaces with a focus on social justice and inclusion. From 2017–2019 she was Visiting Professor at Harvard University in the Graduate School of Education. Her recent book, *White Privilege: the myth of a post-racial society* was published by policy press. Her new book (with Martin Myers) *Elites and the making of privilege* will be published by Routledge in 2022.

Contact: diversity-migration.forthem@uni-mainz.de