

Symposium on the 8th of September 2020 at the VUB

CONTEXT MATTERS!

Hoe kunnen we de context van discriminatie en racisme veranderen? How to change the context of discrimination and racism? Comment changer le contexte de la discrimination et du racisme ?

Content

Racism and discrimination are major problems in our society. They are often considered in terms of individual perpetrators and victims. Discriminatory employers and real estate agents should, for example, be punished and victims should make formal complaints. This individual approach is reaching its limits. Racism and discrimination do not emerge in a societal vacuum. People are social beings who act within the context of a company, school, neighbourhood, municipality or broader society. *Context matters!* Let's contextualize racism. Which factors on the level of an organization, neighbourhood or municipality might have an impact on discrimination? Which roles play the political discourse and the media? How are our innate tendencies to think in boxes stirred up in the society and how can we contain them?

Once we deeply understand the contextual dynamics of racism and discrimination, we might change this context too. Many other societal problems are tackled both individually and collectively. Let's do the same with racism. This symposium aims to bring together academics, policy makers, civil society organizations around this theme.

We welcome everybody - experts, policy makers, scholars and civil society organisations - to participate in this symposium (*also if you are not presenting at the symposium*).

Practicalities

Date of the symposium: Tuesday the 8th of September 2020 from 9:30 until 16:00

Online streaming: for more details and updates see the website of Interface Demography:

<http://interfacedemography.be/symposium-on-discrimination-and-racism-context-matters/>

Registration is no longer necessary.

Language policy

The spoken languages of this symposium will be Dutch, French and English. We assume that everybody has an active command of at least one of these languages and a passive language of the two other languages. We would like to ask presenters to speak in one of the three languages and to translate their slides in one of the other two languages. This means that, for example, one speaks in Dutch and has slides in English or French; or one speaks in French and has slides in Dutch or English; or one speaks in English and has slides in Dutch or French. This language policy reflects the multilingual reality of our academic community and of Brussels as the heart of Belgium and Europe.

Programme

- 09:30 – 10:00 Technical start-up and welcome speech by Prof. Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (VUB)
- 10:00 – 10:20 Speech by Naima Charkaoui
 Author of the book *'Racisme. Over wonden en veerkracht'*
- 10:20 – 10:40 Discrimination on the private rental housing market: the context and approach in the Netherlands
 Arwen Hoogenbosch & Bauke Fiere (vzw RADAR)
- 10:40 – 11:00 How does ethnic discrimination on the housing market differ across neighbourhoods and real estate agencies?
 Abel Ghekiere (VUB-UGent) en Prof. Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (VUB)
- 11:00 – 11:20 Ethnic discrimination in school: Is a multicultural school approach a remedy?
 Dr. Fanny D'hondt, Charlotte Maene, Dr. Roselien Vervae, Prof. Mieke Van Houtte & Prof. Peter Stevens (UGent)
- 11:20 – 11:40 School of choice or schools' choice? Intersectional correspondence testing on ethnic and class discrimination in the enrolment procedure to Flemish kindergarten
 Dounia Bourabain (VUB), Prof. Peter Stevens (UGent) & Prof. Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (UGent)
- 11:40 – 12:00 Racism through the eyes of children and youngsters. What are the structural causes, what is the impact and how can we tackle it?
 Ikrame Kastit (vzw Uit de marge)
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00 – 13:20 Speech by director Els Keytsman (Unia)
- 13:20 – 13:40 Pushing the limits: how right-wing Flemish politicians explore the boundaries of hate speech on their Twitter accounts
 Prof. Martina Temmerman (VUB)
- 13:40 – 14:00 Welcome in my backyard? Examining how the local context shapes individual attitudes towards refugees
 David De Coninck & Prof. Bart Meuleman (KU Leuven)
- 14:00 – 14:20 The colour of the fieldworkers. Racism, discrimination and diversity on the field
 Prof. Géraldine André (UC Louvain & VUB) & Dr. Chiara Giordano (ULB)

- 14:20 – 14:40 Taste or statistics? A systematic review of the economic mechanisms of ethnic labour market discrimination
Louis Lippens (UGent – VUB), Prof. Stijn Baert (UGent), Prof. Eva Deros (UGent), Abel Ghekiere (VUB – UGent) & Prof. Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (VUB)
- 14:40 – 15:00 Are our opinions really our ‘own’? The role of our social groups in our outgroup attitudes
Dr. Jasper Van Assche (UGent & KU Leuven)
- 15:00 – 15:10 Presentation of the Brussels Interdisciplinary Research centre on Migration and Minorities (BIRMM) by Dr. Hannah Vermaut
- 15:10 – 15:20 Presentation of the SBO-FWO project EdisTools by Dr. Fanny D’hondt
- 15:20 – 15:30 Presentation of the Hannah Arendt Institute by Dr. Yousra Benfquih
- 15:30 – 15:40 Closing speech by Prof. Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (VUB)

Questions, remarks or suggestions?

Contact Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe: Pieter-Paul.Verhaeghe@vub.be

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