

Twentieth Annual Historical Materialism Conference
9–12 November 2023, SOAS, Russell Square, Central London

Race and Capital Stream

Marxism and Migration

Deadline for abstracts: Monday 12 June 2023

2023 has seen the persistence of global struggles around racism. The continued fall out from capital's multiple interlocking crises – ecological, military, political and economic – has often been manifested in intensified practices of racism and racialisation, and capital's rule continues to be contested in these terms. A looming, and increasingly important, axis of these processes has been around the issue of 'migration'. In Britain, this has manifested in the 'small boats' crisis, in which an increasingly threatened Conservative government has sought refuge in racialised attacks on those seeking to enter Britain irregularly. This has been matched by a series of schemes to physically isolate and remove these racialised migrants.

Of course, Britain is not alone in this respect. Globally, forced migration is set to reach an all-time high, with displacement from wars and civil wars, climatological transforms and economic dislocation reaching an all-time high. Faced with this, the response has been grim: with capital and the state re-deploying languages or race and racism, and the far right on the rise. In this way, those forced movements of people, driven by capital's contradictions and crises, have been managed through practices of racialisation.

At the same time, these practices have been by no means straightforward. Particularly important in this context has been the movement of people displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The reception of displaced Ukrainians, and their comparison with other groups, has simultaneously reaffirmed and disrupted the traditional articulation of racialised categories in the context of migration.

In crucial ways, migration implicates the key coordinates of global capitalism: it crucially implicates the relationships between state and capital, capital and crisis and capital and racialisation. At the same time, the question of migration is deeply intertwined with questions of imperialism and territoriality.

It is certainly the case that – on an uneven basis – the left has come to the defence of migrants and Marxists have paid some attention to these questions. However, much more work needs to be done integrating questions of migration, racialisation and capital's laws of motion. This is the objective of HM2023's race and capital stream. We seek papers we foreground the relationship between migration, capitalism and racialisation, and seek to intervene in the current conjuncture, here we would be interested in papers and/or panels concerning:

- Marxist theorisations of migration and racism
- Marxist accounts of the relationship between class, race and migration
- Marxist accounts of anti-migrant mobilisation
- Marxist accounts of particular conjunctures of migration
- Historical studies in the role of migration and racialisation

We welcome submissions for panels and individual papers. Abstracts should be under 300 words, and submissions should indicate that it is for the “Race and Capital Stream.”

The deadline for submissions is **Monday 12 June 2023**

To submit a paper or panel proposal visit:

<https://conference.historicalmaterialism.org/e/hm2023>

Please note that this is an in-person conference.

For all enquiries, please contact: info@historicalmaterialism.org