



GENDER, DIVERSITEIT  
& INTERSECTIONALITEIT  
EXPERTISE CENTRUM

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21 MARCH 2021

## The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Activities on anti-racism

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021

MORE INFO ON [RHEA.RESEARCH.VUB.BE](https://rhea.research.vub.be)

# ANTI-RACISM 2021

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, RHEA together with BIRMM, Crosstalks, the VEN-network, EDGE and the Race and Research Network organizes activities on the theme of racism. A tradition started by the Race and Research network in 2020.

A month of reflection and debate about race and religion, decolonisation of universities, racialization and more. We invite you to engage and participate. Discover the program below and check for updates at our [website!](#)

**PROF. DR. ANYA TOPOLSKI**  
**MASTERCLASS 'THINKING RACE AND RELIGION'**

*Tuesday, 16 March 2021 - 14:00-17:00*



In this Masterclass prof. dr. Anya Topolski briefly introduces the central tenets of her current research project. Topolski theorizes the 'race-religion constellation' which refers to the historical "practice of classifying people into races according to categories we now associate with the term religion" (Topolski, 2018, p.58). Consequently, she argues for the necessity to study the intersections between the 'religion line' and 'colour line' so as to be able to grasp contemporary racism in Europe. Following this brief introduction, a collective conversation with prof.

dr. Topolski and the attendants of the masterclass will take place. Academics (PhD candidates, post-doctoral researchers, teaching staff), activists and artists working on topics related to race, racism, religion, secularism or intersectionality are warmly invited to join this Masterclass. Participants are asked to familiarize themselves with the work prof. dr. Anya Topolski by reading one of her texts (to be send following registration). PhD candidates are entitled to 1 credit in their doctoral training program.

INFO VIA [RHEA](#)

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**'DECOLONISING THE UNIVERSITY'**

*Monday, 22 March 2021 - 17:00-18:30*

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

## DECOLONISING THE UNIVERSITY

**"THE CALL TO DECOLONISE  
UNIVERSITIES IS GROWING  
LOUDER."**

Speakers: Iman Lechkar, Christil Asamoah, Tundé Adefioye

BIRMM, RHEA, the VEN-network and the Race & Research Network invite you to join the discussion on how to decolonise universities and the VUB in particular

# MIGRATION, EQUALITY & RACISM

## 44 OPINIONS



The call by students, organisations, scholars and activists to decolonise universities, including our own VUB, is growing louder. In the recently published book 'Migration, Equality & Racism - 44 Opinions', several authors denounce the current state at Belgian Universities where education is stuck in colonial, Eurocentric research and thinking. The underrepresentation of racialised minorities among students, university personnel and top management is manifest, and university policies and practices are still insufficiently addressing (structural and institutional) racism.

BIRMM, RHEA, the VEN-network and the Race and Research Network invite you to join the discussion on how to decolonise universities and VUB in particular. On March 22, we will discuss insights on what the de-colonisation of VUB could look like and which ways we can move forward. During this evening, Christil Asamoah, Tundé Adefioye and Iman Lechkar showcase their ideas on how to foster equality for marginalized groups in the university. Their insights show how to 'do' and 'not do' decolonisation.

We invite all VUB students and personnel to join the debate and discuss what needs to be done to decolonise the university. The evening will be closed by feedback from the Equality Team on the current initiatives to foster equality at the university.

INFO & REGISTRATION VIA [BIRMM](#)

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**ZAKIYYAH IMAN JACKSON**  
**'ON RACE, SPECIES AND BECOMING HUMAN'**

*Thursday, 25 March 2021 - 20:00-21:30*



Zakiyyah Iman Jackson is an assistant professor of English at the University of Southern California. To highlight the International Day against Racism, Zakiyyah Iman Jackson takes the floor to share her innovative thinking on the intricate relations between race, species and the idea of 'the human'. In her thought-provoking book *'Becoming Human: Matter and Meaning in an Antiblack World'*, she scrutinizes key African-American, African and Caribbean cultural texts.

Unlike most black studies scholars, Jackson questions the emancipatory promise of 'humanization'. Instead, she turns to texts by leading scholars and writers like Sylvia Wynter, Audre Lorde, Octavia Butler and others. She uses their work to drive a new understanding of 'being' that neither relies on animal abjection to define human, nor reestablishes the need to be recognized as 'proper human' within liberal humanism as an antidote to racialization. The evening will be moderated by dramaturg Tundé Adefioye.

INFO & REGISTRATION VIA [KAAITHEATER](#)

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## AGENDA

**An overview of upcoming RHEA-events.**

### **Anya Topolski - Masterclass 'Thinking Race and Religion'**

International Day Against Racism

[16 March, 14:00-17:00](#)

### **VUB - Decolonise the University**

International Day Against Racism

[22 March, 17:00-18:30](#)

### **Zakiyyah Iman Jackson - On Race, Species and Becoming Human**

International Day Against Racism

[25 March, 20:00-21:30](#)

**Bo Zhang - A Qualitative Study towards a more Comprehensive Understanding of Factors affecting the Domestic Labor Distribution in Chinese Families**

RHEA Research Webinar

29 March, 12:30-14:00



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