RACIAL BORDERS
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Alessandra Tarantino/AP

Racial Aphasia

"This is not the same as amnesia, which indicates some unfortunate series of events that led to an unintentional forgetting of how the modern world system was founded on, and continues as, a hierarchical racial order. Racial amnesia obscures the power involved in purposeful evasion, suggesting that, like a B-movie plot, we must have accidentally fallen, hit our heads and forgotten our racist past. **Amnesia disavows intent. Aphasia, on the other hand, indicates a calculated forgetting, an obstruction of discourse, language and speech**.

…

International bodies and states alike profess normative and legal commitments to racial equality while racial stratification persists both between the developed and developing worlds and within most, if not all, racially heterogeneous societies. **White supremacy as a global institution and racism as a pervasive social structure are obscured … ; as a result, racism is instead reduced to abhorrent individualistic acts or attitudes. The promise of the post-racial society is realized not through reparations or substantive equality, but in the imposition of race-free discourses that keep international and domestic racial orders firmly entrenched**."

Debra Thompson (2013) Through, against and beyond the racial state: the transnational stratum of race, Cambridge Review of International Affairs, 26:1, 133-151

"Race"

The term "race" refers to the "the **historically contingent social systems of meaning** that attach to **elements of morphology and ancestry**."

Ian Haney Lopez, White by Law: The Legal Construction of Race (NYU Press 2006)

Race as structure

Anibal Quijano reminds us that race today is the product of centuries long colonial intervention and exploitation, during which "**race became the fundamental criterion for the distribution of the world population into ranks, places, and roles in [. . .] society's structure of power.**"

Aníbal Quijano, 'Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism, and Latin America' [2000] 1 Neplanta: Views from South 533, 535

GLOBAL COMPACT ON MIGRATION

"**<u>Human rights</u>:** The Global Compact is based on international human rights law and upholds the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination. By implementing the Global Compact, we ensure effective respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, across all stages of the migration cycle. We also reaffirm the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants and their families."

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Immigrant:

"any male adult native of China or its dependencies or any islands in the Chinese Seas or any person born of Chinese parents"

"The ordinary man of adventurous tastes and a desire to get all out of life that can be gotten is beyond measure better off than were his forefathers of one, two, or three centuries back. He can travel round the world; he can dwell in any country he wishes; he can explore strange regions." Theodore Roosevelt, 1897

Race as a Border

- Border: site of enforcement of exclusion

- Non-whiteness: operates as a site or a means of enforcement of exclusion

Racial Borders

Europe's deadly borders . . . must be understood as *racial* borders. The physical barricading and ever more lethal policing of Europe's borders, likewise, signify an abundantly racialized affair. Rather than perceiving the brute racial (post)coloniality of Europe's borders as a merely "exclusionary" matter, it is vital that we discern the ways that this profoundly racialized system of immigration and asylum operates in fact in a perfectly predictable way as a machine of *inclusion* — albeit a form of inclusion that is always one of racialized, postcolonial, illegalized labor subordination.

Nicholas De Genova, *Europe's Racial Borders*, January 2018

Racial Borders

Racial borders refers generally to territorial and political border regimes that disparately curtail movement (mobility) and political incorporation (membership) on a racial basis, and sustain international migration and mobility as racial privileges

Digital Borders

Borders whose infrastructure and processes increasingly rely on machine learning, automated algorithmic decision-making systems, predictive analytics and related digital technologies.

These technologies are integrated into identification documents, facial recognition systems, ground sensors, aerial video surveillance drones, biometric databases, asylum decision-making processes and many other facets of border and immigration enforcement.