

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Race and Slavery Narratives in the European Colonial Empires.

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES
(15th - 20th centuries)

Praia, Cape Verde, 31 January - 1 February 2024

Call for Papers

Race and slavery have received a considerable scholarly attention over the last decades. The interweaving features between race and slavery, however, still require a great deal of enlightenment. Moreover, the research outputs of a specific scientific discipline on these matters are not always fully grasped by experts of other fields of expertise, which favours misapprehensions and misuses and inspires grave scientific prejudices. Thus, the apprehension of the interweaving features of the relationship between race and slavery narratives calls for interdisciplinary methodological procedures and for an inter/transdisciplinary dialectics. The international conference Race and Slavery Narratives in the European Colonial Empires. Interdisciplinary Approaches (15th-20th centuries) intends to foster the deployment of interdisciplinary methodologies in the Social Sciences aiming at the promotion of interdisciplinary readings/interpretations of the interlacing features of race and slavery. Race and Slavery Narratives in the European Colonial Empires. Interdisciplinary Approaches (15th-20th centuries) seeks to gather experts from different fields, namely General Historians, Church Historians, Art Historians, Theologians, Canon and Civil Lawyers, Ethnographers, Sociologists, Anthropologists, Literary Historians and Critics, among others, to debate the phenomena of race and slavery. The main goal is to promote an inter and transdisciplinary discussion on the relationship between race and slavery throughout the European Colonial empires, from the dawn of the Iberian Expansion in the 15th century to the collapse of the Portuguese empire in Africa in the 20th century.

Race and Slavery Narratives in the European Colonial Empires. Interdisciplinary Approaches (15th-20th centuries) is organised by the Centre for the History of Society and Culture, by the Institute for Philosophical Studies (both from the Arts Faculty of the University of Coimbra), University of Cape Verde, University de Santiago and by the Portuguese History Academy, and will be held on 31 January and 1 February 2024, in Praia, the capital City of Cape Verde, West Africa.

Venues: National Library of Cape Verde and University de Santiago; University of Cape Verde

Proposals are invited for twenty-minutes papers which explore any aspect of the relationship between race and slavery in the European colonial empires. Papers are welcome from any academic discipline. Interdisciplinary papers and discussions on the relationship between race and slavery in the European colonies in Africa are particularly encouraged. Proposal can be submitted in English, Portuguese, French, Spanish and Italian (at the conference itself, for papers presented in any language beside English, an extended English abstract will be required).

Potential topics could include (but are not limited to):

- Interdisciplinary methodologies in social sciences applied to the study of race and slavery narratives;
- Sociological features and dynamics of societies based on racial subordination and human bondage.
- The rationale of racial slavery and other forms of racial violence;
- Race as argument in the justifications for slavery/corvée/forced labour as well as for their abolitions;
- Slavery, race and abolitions in national parliamentary debates and International Law;
- Slavery, race and abolitions in the archival records produced in the run up to the colonial conferences (Brussels Conference of 1889-90; Berlin Conference, etc.) and to the anti-colonial/anti-imperialist conferences (Brussels Conference of 1927, Bandung Conference of 1955, etc.);

- Slavery and race in the politico-diplomatic interventions at the League of Nations/United Nations, African Union, and other multilateral organisations;
- Slavery, race and abolition in major authors of the colonial period (Bartolomé de Las Casas, Padre António Vieira, the School of Coimbra (Conimbricenses), The Quakers, Olaudah Equiano; Frederick Douglass; Louis-Narcisse Baudry des Lozières; Joaquim da Cunha Azeredo Coutinho; William Wilberforce; Thomas Clarkson; Henri Jean-Baptiste Grégoire, etc.);
- Race, slavery and justification of colonial practices, particularly the violent practices of the New Imperialism;
- Race, slavery and legal systems.
- Race in the religious and theological justifications for slavery and abolitions.
- Slavery and race narratives in the Schools of Philosophy and philosophical traditions.
- Slavery, race and fiction (Cinema, literary fiction, etc.);
- Slavery and race in folklore around the world.
- Slavery, race and abolitions in the schoolbooks and in the curricula of universities around the world.

Proposals, consisting of a title, an abstract (max. 250 words) and a short academic track record, should be sent to jairzinho.lpereira@gmail.com by Thursday, **30 November 2023**.

Feedback on the proposals will be sent by **7 December 2023**.

For any queries and further information, please contact the conference organizer, Jairzinho Lopes Pereira (jairzinho.lpereira@gmail.com).

Related date: 30 November 2023