

The race-migration nexus along the Global Colour Line: an empirical analysis of the European and Lebanese racialised management of migration

Abstract

The Euro-Mediterranean region is generally not considered a site of analysis of institutional racism, despite its long history of colonialism. Departing from the IR research agenda that deals with the operationalisation of the Global Colour Line and developing a specific Euro-Mediterranean frame, this thesis argues that current migration policies of two political entities – the European Union and Lebanon – represent cases of institutionalised racism. Simultaneously, it outlines a new area of research that covers the role and impacts of antiracist social movements in counteracting racist hegemonic power through their discursive production. Specifically, the thesis argues that the formation and actualisation of the European border regime (encompassing bordering practices and externalisation agreements to third countries) and patterns of migrant indentured labour in Lebanon through the system of the Kafala meet at the intersection between Whiteness as a socio-political identity and structure and the development of bio- and necropolitical devices that subjugate migrants to ‘bare life’. Finally, the thesis reveals the counter-hegemonic power held by European and Lebanese social movements, whose dynamism allows the creation of new social and political spaces where to challenge the inherent racism of formal institutional actors.