

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

### **Transatlantic Approaches to Environmental Racism: A Lens Through Ecologies, Materialities and Relations**

Workshop organized by the GASCA (DGSKA) regional groups Afro-America and African diaspora, Mesoamerica and South America

**6-7 November 2026, Institute of Social Anthropology and Religious Studies, University of Marburg**

Across the globe, Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change. Since the 1980s, social movements and critical scholarship have addressed such racial dimensions of environmental injustices through the concept of *environmental racism*. Originally coined in the United States to expose the intersections of race, class, and gender in contexts of environmental pollution (Bullard 1990), the concept has since influenced a wide range of socio-ecological analyses worldwide. In Latin America and the Caribbean, for instance, environmental racism has sparked deeper conversations about the environmental hardships experienced by racialized populations, especially in situations involving climate change, systematic land dispossession, extractive industries, infrastructure mega-projects, and waste management/dumping (e.g., Berman-Arévalo & Ojeda 2020; Carruthers 2008; Moreno Parra 2019; Quiroga Manrique et al. 2025; Rodríguez Mir & Martínez Gandolfi 2023).

This workshop examines racialized environmental inequalities within the *longue durée* of transatlantic relations, which emerged through the conquest and colonization of the Americas and were consolidated through plantation economies and the transatlantic slave trade (e.g., Kummels et al. 2014; Rodney 2018; Zeuske 2022). This historical formation of the transatlantic network was crucial to the development of the modern/colonial world system, which is characterized by racial classification and an extractive economy (e.g., Ferdinand 2022; Gilmore 2019; Quijano 2024).

Against this backdrop, the workshop approaches *the transatlantic* as a field of ongoing ecological, material, and relational entanglements. By bringing together various perspectives, the workshop aims to deepen understandings of, and broaden perspectives on, environmental racism in Latin America, the Caribbean, and beyond.

We are interested in contributions that explore how historical and contemporary transatlantic connections have shaped the dynamics and contexts of exploitation, dispossession, and environmental violence. At the same time, we welcome contributions that highlight the various forms of resistance, care, and reinvention adopted by racialized communities throughout the Atlantic world.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- In what ways have transatlantic exchanges co-constituted and shaped the ecologies, landscapes and multispecies relationships in Latin America and the Caribbean in the *longue durée*?
- What role have materialities, such as objects, commodities, infrastructures, technologies, and waste, played in the transatlantic formation of environmental racism?
- What are the potentials and the limitations of analyzing environmental inequalities through the lens of environmental racism?
- In what ways can ethnography trace the ecological afterlives of colonialism and extractivism?
- How can research on environmental racism be designed and conducted in ways that create an impact beyond academia?

We welcome contributions addressing the role of transatlantic relations in the formation, persistence, and subversion of environmental racism in Latin America, the Caribbean, and beyond. Submissions from artists and activists who engage with environmental racism through public intervention, community work, and creative practices are especially encouraged.

Please send your **abstract** of no more than 300 words by **June 30, 2026**, to the following email address: "[transatlantic-conference-2026@uni-marburg.de](mailto:transatlantic-conference-2026@uni-marburg.de)"

## References

Berman-Arévalo, Eloísa, & Diana Ojeda. 2020. "Ordinary Geographies: Care, Violence, and Agrarian Extractivism in 'Post-Conflict' Colombia." *Antipode* 52(6), 1583-1602. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12667>.

Bullard, Robert D. 1990. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*. Boulder: Westview Press.

Carruthers, David V. (ed). 2008. *Environmental Justice in Latin America: Problems, Promise, and Practice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Ferdinand, Malcolm. 2022. *Decolonial ecology: Thinking from the Caribbean World*. Cambridge et al.: Polity Press.

Gilmore, Ruth. 2019. *Geographies of Racial Capitalism with Ruth Wilson Gilmore*. An Antipode Foundation Film directed by Kenton Card. See online: <https://antipodeonline.org/geographies-of-racial-capitalism/>.

Kummels, Ingrid, Claudia Rauhut, Stefan Rinke & Birte Timm. 2014. *Transatlantic Caribbean. Dialogues of People, Practices, Ideas*. Bielefeld: Transcript.

Moreno Parra, María. 2019. Racismo ambiental: muerte lenta y despojo de territorio ancestral afroecuatoriano en Esmeraldas. *Íconos* 64, 89-109.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.17141/iconos.64.2019.3686>.

Quijano, Aníbal. 2024. *Foundational essays. Aníbal Quijano. On the Coloniality of Power*. Edited by Walter D. Mignolo, Rita Segato, and Catherine Walsh. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

Quiroga Manrique, Catalina, Diana Ojeda, & Alejandro Camargo. "Contested mangroves: land struggles and the gendered and racialized geographies of climate change." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 53(1), 40-67.

Rodney, Walter. 2018. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. New Edition. London & New York: Verso.

Rodríguez Mir, Javier, & M. Alejandra Martínez Gandolfi. 2023. "Racismo ambiental, necropolítica e inequidades sanitarias en comunidades quilombolas en Brasil." *Perifêria, revista de recerca i formació en antropologia* 28(1), 54–83.  
<https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/periferia.905>

Zeuske, Michael. 2022. *Afrika – Atlantik – Amerika. Sklaverei und Sklavenhandel in Afrika, auf dem Atlantik und in den Amerikas sowie in Europa*. Dependency and Slavery Studies. Volume 2. Edited by Jeannine Bishoff and Stephan Conermann. University of Bonn. Berlin: De Gruyter Brill.