

‘SCIENTIFIC ANTI-RACISM’ IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Disciplines, Trajectories and Politics

International Conference

Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers)- Centre de colloques room/salle 100

11-12 December 2025

FALLACIES OF RACISM EXPOSED

UNESCO PUBLISHES
DECLARATION BY
WORLD'S SCIENTISTS

More than fifteen years ago, men and women of goodwill proposed to publish an international declaration which would expose "racial" discrimination and "racial" hatred as unscientific and false, as well as ugly and inhuman. The world at that time was running downhill toward World War II, and so-called "practical" considerations prevented publication of the statement — even if they could not prevent the war.

False myths and superstitions about race contributed directly to the war, and to the murder of peoples which became known as genocide — but victims of the war were of all colours and of all "races". Despite the universality of this agony and destruction, the myths and superstitions still survive — and still threaten the whole of mankind. The need for a sound unchallengeable statement of the facts, to counter this continuing threat, is a matter of urgency.

Accordingly, Unesco has called together a group of the world's most noted scientists, in the fields of biology, genetics, psychology, sociology and anthropology. These scientists have prepared a historic declaration of the known facts about human race.



Source: "Fallacies of racism exposed: UNESCO publishes Declaration by world's scientists", *The UNESCO Courier*, III, 6/7, 1950

Programme

11 December

9:00 – 10:00: Welcome/Introduction

Luc Berlivet (CNRS, Cermes3), **Fabrice Cahen** (Ined, UR11&UR4), **Claude-Olivier Doron** (SPHERE/Université Paris Cité)

Session 1 – Anthropology, Races and Anti-Racism in the Interwar Period

Chair: Claude-Olivier Doron

10:00 – 10:50: **Maciej Górny** (Polish Academy of Sciences): “*Rassenkampf*: East Central European Dialogue with German Racial Theories”

10:50 - 11:40: **Christine Laurière** (CNRS, HERITAGES): “*Paul Rivet & the Temple of Man. Some Shades of Anti-Racism in 1930’s French Ethnologie*”

11:40 - 11:55: Break

11:55 - 12:45: **Zacharias Zoubir** (CPGE, Le Mans): “*The Society/Nature and European/Non-European Dichotomies in Franz Boas’ Critiques of Race and Racism*”

12:45 - 13:00: General discussion

Lunch

Session 2 – Psychology and the Question of Races

Chair: Francesco Cassata

14:30 - 15:20: **Alexej Lochmatow** (University of Erfurt): “*(De-)Racializing Intelligence in ‘Zionist Science’: A Search for Historical Agency beyond the Domains of ‘Race’ (1900–1933)*”

15:20 - 16:10: **Chloé Maurel** (Institut d’Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine/PSL): “*Otto Klineberg and Marie Jahoda: Two Humanist Psychologists at UNESCO Applying Social Psychology to Anti-Racism and the Pursuit of International Understanding*”

16:10 - 16:30: Break

16:30 - 17:20: **Christelle Gomis** (University of Picardy Jules Verne): “*Beyond Brown: The Clark Doll Test, Migrant Children in 1960s–70s Britain and the Limits of Psychological Anti-Racism*”

17:20 – 17:45: General discussion

Conference dinner

12 December

Session 3 – Biology and Genetics against Racism

Chair: Snait Gissis

09:30 – 10:20: **Lisa Gannett** (Saint Mary's University, Halifax - CAN): *"How to Be (or Not to Be) a Scientific Anti-Racist: Lessons from Dobzhansky and Lewontin"*

10:20 – 11:10: **Cameron Brinitzer** (Harvard University): *"Genetics as Alibi: Racial Aporias amid Black Radicalism in the California Bay Area"*

11:10-11:20: Break

11:20 – 12:10: **Nayanika Ghosh** (Duke University): *"A Case to Include the Archives of Repression in the Archive of Scientific Anti-Racism"*

12:10 – 12:30: General discussion

Lunch

Session 4 – Science beyond Race? Transformations and Shortcomings of Scientific Anti-Racism

Chair: Luc Berlivet

14:00 – 14:50: **Snait Gissis** (Tel Aviv University): *"Can there be Scientific Anti-Racism when there is Racism but no "Race"? The Case of Israel"*

14:50 – 15:40: **Francesco Cassata** (University of Genova): *"In the Shadow of the 1938 'Race Manifesto': Reshaping Scientific Anti-Racism in Italy"*

15:40 – 16:30: **Claude-Olivier Doron** (Université Paris-Cité): *"Sciences against Racism in French Media. Evolving Strategies and Shifting Concepts between 1945 and the Late 1970s"*

16:30 – 16:45: General Discussion

16:45-17:00: Break

A Personal Perspective on Scientific Anti-Racism in France

Introduction: Fabrice Cahen

17:00-18:00: **André Langaney** (Emeritus Professor at the Musée de l'Homme and the University of Geneva)