

## *Workshop proposal nr.13*

**Title:** **Debating Racism and Racialization in the Nordic Countries**

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### **Debating Racism and Racialization in the Nordic Countries**

Nordic countries have witnessed an increase of people of color who speak out in public and in social media about recurring experiences of being discriminated in overt and covert ways. At the same time mostly white, indigenous persons and groups have beefed up the emotional language in refusing of these experiences. These refusals follow from decades of public denials and neglectance of locally and internationally published reports pointing to the apparent cases of racism. Even though there are significant differences in the degree of acknowledging the existence of racism and the upholding of post-racial views between the Nordic countries, the experience of racism and the denials of racism are generally present in all of the Nordic countries.

In this panel we wish to focus on how to understand these developments and not least to conceptualize and theorize them. What do forms of trivialization, banalization, explaining away, naturalization of difference, normalization of discrimination have in common and how do they differ? How are we to conceptualize and theorize the unintentional yet ideological expressions of racialization? How can we make use of existing analytical vocabulary from different research tradition and socio-cultural context, such as North American scholarly work on “silent racism”, “white privilege”, and “whiteness studies” with “everyday racism”, “entitlement racism” first borne in a European setting and relating to migrants.

**Keywords:**

Racialization, everyday racism, public debate, white privilege, denial