

Sociology Department Seminar Series

“Du Boisian Sociology after Du Bois: Reading Black Sociology as Postcolonial Sociology”

Ali Meghji

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Inequalities



Wednesday, March 13th, 12:15-1:30pm | PH 347

Over the years, sociologists have highlighted Du Bois’ postcolonial approach to the sociology of race. Focusing on his analysis of the global colorline, sociologists have highlighted how Du Bois’ approach to race offered a distinctive tradition of ‘Du Boisian sociology’, which stressed the importance of historical and transnational analyses of the relations between racism, colonialism, modernity, and capitalism. The onus now falls on the sociological community to track the development of Du Boisian sociology beyond Du Bois’ work.

Professor Meghji will discuss an ongoing research project that attempts to address this development of ‘Du Boisian sociology after Du Bois’ by focusing on two figures: Franklin Frazier and John Gibbs St Clair Drake. While both Frazier and Drake are often presented as being micro-ethnographers of American society, Meghji highlights how they both developed global, comparative, and historical approaches to race and empire, consequently developing the Du Boisian tradition.

Presenter Bio

Ali Meghji is an Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Cambridge, and currently a visiting fellow at the Hutchins Centre at Harvard. His research puts critical race theory into dialogue with postcolonial sociology in order to understand the global dynamics of racialization and racism. In doing so, his work overcomes the methodological nationalism which characterises much contemporary race scholarship, and develops a way forward for thinking about global raciality. His current research involves archival work on the Black sociological tradition, looking at the unpublished writings of Du Bois, AJ Cooper, Ida B-Wells, Franklin Frazier, and St Clair Drake.



All students, faculty and staff welcome | Lunch will be provided