

**Report of the one-day workshop on  
*Taxonomies, Translations, Exchanges: Race, 1760-1980*  
21 May 2005, Wine Room, King's College, Cambridge**

A one-day workshop, organised by Daniel Matlin and William O'Reilly, on the subject of *Taxonomies, Translations, Exchanges: Race, 1760-1980* was held at the Wine Room, King's College, on 21 May last. This was the first of a number of workshops and conferences supported by the Centre for History and Economics which will explore various aspects of race as viewed from historical, literary, anthropological and political perspectives in the recent past. The meetings are part of the programme on *Exchanges of Economic and Political Ideas since 1760*, organised at the Centre and at Harvard University, with the support of the Mellon Foundation.

Following welcoming remarks, ten 20-minute presentations, organised in four sessions, were delivered on the following subjects:

Megan Vaughan	Race and Colour
Gabriela Ramos	Race and Blood
Susan Bayly	Race and Caste
Derek Peterson	Race and Religion
Ananya Kabir	Race and Language
Marius Turda	Race and Eugenics
Richard Drayton	Race and Science
Adrian Pabst	Race, Theology and Philosophy
Daniel Matlin	Race and Power
William O'Reilly	Race and Nationalism

In addition, a short question period followed each presentation and the workshop concluded with a roundtable discussion.

Deborah Thom, Michael O'Brien and Michael Lewis also attended the workshop and participated in the general discussion.

Discussion in this workshop focused on the concept and application of race and examined questions around negotiation, coexistence and toleration in Europe, the Atlantic World, Africa and Asia. Participants focused on the ideas of race developed in the long nineteenth century, and specifically how these ideas developed and were transformed in conjunction with nineteenth-century forms of imperialisms. Participants also explored how earlier ideas of race were modified and used for nationalist and diasporic self-fashioning in the twentieth century.

In the first session, Megan Vaughan presented a paper on the subject of Race and Colour, specifically focusing on legal definitions of colour in Mauritius in the second half of the eighteenth century. On the subject of Race and Blood, Gabriela Ramos then examined issues of miscegenation and *mestizo* identity in early Spanish America.

The third paper in this session, by Susan Bayly on the subject of Race and Caste, was a re-examination of national racial formation under the Viet Nam Communist government. Discussion following this session continued for forty-five minutes.

In the second session, Derek Peterson presented on the subject of Race and Religion, drawing on specific examples from the history of the Kikuyu in East Africa. Ananya Kabir continued, on the subject of Race and Language, by considering the issues of antiquarianism and national language in the nineteenth century.

Following lunch, Marius Turda, on the subject of Race and Eugenics, looked at examples from late nineteenth- and early-twentieth century Germany and Central Europe, and particularly Hungary. The third panel began with a paper by Richard Drayton on Race and Science, which offered a long view of the development of scientific discourse on race. Adrian Pabst then considered the interplay between Race, Theology and Philosophy.

In the final session, Daniel Matlin examined Race and Power in relation to the Pan-African thought of Martin Delany and Alexander Crummell in nineteenth-century America. William O'Reilly presented a final paper on Race and Nationalism, which explored debates on race amongst the embryonic colonial nationalist elite at the turn of the twentieth century.

The day's events were generally perceived as being successful and opened up a number of issues for participants to pursue in the future. We would propose that a two-day conference might now be planned, with three thematic sessions continuing the lines of enquiry opened by the workshop:

- The Invention of Race and the Invention of Empire
- Race, State and Society (e.g., race and nationalism, race and eugenics, demography, religion, economy, race and Marxism, 'Final Solution', etc.)
- Race, Identity and Politics (e.g., anti-colonial nationalism, diaspora, ethics, possibly health and development, etc.)

We hope to place emphasis on the importance of the Migration of Ideas in this conference, as this was recognised as providing a useful perspective on the ideas and encounters discussed by the participants at our initial workshop.

We hope that this proposed conference might take place before the end of summer vacation 2006, and that participants might be invited from the U.K., elsewhere in Europe and the U.S.A. and that conference the might take place in Cambridge.