

SEPHIS

The South-South exchange
programme for research on the
history of development



University of Cape Town (South Africa)
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“MIXING RACES”

A workshop organised by the
SEPHIS PROGRAMME
and the
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (SOUTH AFRICA)

Cape Town, 17-21 June 2005

This workshop will deal with the question of why the cultural and political implications of ‘racial mixing’ have varied so widely between places and times.

- Why is it that ‘racial mixing’ has produced specific social categories of ‘half-castes’ (mestizos, mulattos, Eurasians and so on) in certain historical locations and periods but has gone practically unnoticed in others?
- How can we explain that ‘racial mixing’ has been glorified in some places as the fountain-head of a new postcolonial nationhood but has been vilified in others as an affront to the purity of the nation – to be disowned, punished, discriminated against, or expelled?

These subjects have been vigorously debated in the South but almost always in the context of separate cultural zones: Southeast Asia, the Swahili Coast, Spanish-speaking parts of Latin America, the Black Atlantic, particular European colonial empires, to name a few. There has also been a strong emphasis on the colonial period (rather than before or after) and on ‘racial mixing’ involving Europeans and others (rather than people from different parts of the South). It is important to overcome these limitations. Furthermore, the vocabularies and concepts that these debates have produced are regional and comparative research across these zones is still almost non-existent.

The workshop focuses on the political and cultural differences surrounding ‘racial mixing’. It seeks to provide a meeting ground for researchers working on various parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific who wish to present their findings in a broad comparative setting. We invite research papers from scholars who are based in the South. A few scholars from the North can participate at their own expense. Their papers should use primary sources (personal correspondence, memoirs, diaries, interviews, official documents, newspapers, visual material, and so on) and should have a comparative approach to the case, or cases, being studied. The papers should address the questions raised in the first paragraph and they must be of internationally publishable quality. The University of Cape Town and SEPHIS will undertake to publish a selection of suitably refereed papers soon after the workshop.

The organisers will cover travel costs and other participation expenses for successful applicants. However, air-tickets will be issued only upon timely receipt of acceptable papers, i.e. the paper submission deadline must be met.

Authors are invited to submit a one-page paper proposal (in English) indicating the scope, nature and approach of their intended papers, as well as an academic curriculum vitae (maximum of 3 pages). Proposals must reach us by **30 January 2005**. Final drafts of selected papers (4,000–6,000 words) are due by **1 May 2005** to ensure that airline tickets and other participation expenses can be disbursed in good time. Selected papers can be written in languages other than English but in that case they must be submitted by **1 April 2005** to allow enough time for translation into English, the language in which the workshop will be conducted.

Applications and requests for more information should be sent to:

▶ iNCUDISA@humanities.uct.ac.za (please note lower case ‘i’)

Postal Address:

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For a list of reference works, see <http://www.sephis.org>

