

Special Issue

Racialized Citizenship in Superdiverse Europe

Message from the Guest Editors

There is an increasing awareness that experiences of racism and discrimination seriously harm the sense of **belonging** as well as the opportunities to enjoy **social mobility** and **quality of life** for many immigrants and ethnic minority peoples in European societies. Yet, there is also a persistent unwillingness to talk about the racial dimension of the kinds of disadvantage and social exclusion that affect immigrants, their descendants and other racialized groups disproportionately. **Race** as concept has been viable in Anglo-Saxon scholarship, but much less so in the European context, where it was largely replaced by the broader and less specific term “ethnicity” in the aftermath of the Second World War and the painful unravelling of what barbarism Nazi *racialization* had led to. But, as Lentini (2008) has argued, the European silence about race has allowed European states to declare themselves officially non-racist, while at the same time continuing to imply an inherent European superiority in which Europeanness presupposes whiteness.

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