Racism and Anti-Racism Today

BY

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## List of Acronyms

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFL</td>
<td>Australian Football League</td>
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<tr>
<td>AI</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
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<td>APA</td>
<td>American Psychological Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>Black Lives Matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLS</td>
<td>Critical Legal Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Coronavirus Disease 2019</td>
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<td>CRT</td>
<td>Critical Race Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>D&amp;I</td>
<td>Diversity and Inclusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>EOP</td>
<td>Equal Opportunity Policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>FECCA</td>
<td>Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>FHA</td>
<td>Federal Housing Administration</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>GFC</td>
<td>Global Financial Crises</td>
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<td>IHRA</td>
<td>International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance</td>
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<td>IQ</td>
<td>Intelligence Quotient</td>
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<tr>
<td>KKK</td>
<td>Ku Klux Klan</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAACP</td>
<td>National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIV</td>
<td>New International Version</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAU</td>
<td>Organisation of African Unity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UEFA</td>
<td>Union of European Football Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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Preface

The struggle against racism reached a critical juncture when 60 years ago, in 1963, Martin Luther King Jr delivered the famous ‘I have a dream’ speech. This was a period when the civil rights struggle galvanised the black community, a decade since the end of Jim Crow. Institutional racism prevailed across many regions globally, prompting blacks and other minorities worldwide to challenge oppression and discrimination. Africa was amid a decolonisation process, while Apartheid remained defiant. Yet, the civil rights movement inspired decades of global anti-racism initiatives aimed at combating interpersonal and institutional racism.

Fast forward half a century, and racism endures as we enter the third decade of the new millennium, with racist ideas continuing to divide societies worldwide. Scholars grapple with the enduring significance of racism, raising academic inquiry into the origin and causes of racism. Questions remain about whether racism stems from ideas or systems of exclusion. Some may wonder why racism endures when the biological significance of ‘race’ has been discredited. However, for racism scholars, it is not surprising that the ‘racial contract’ of modernity continues to produce racial inequities. While debates remain about the origin or causes of racism, there’s no denying regarding its profound influence on the organisation of modern society. And this is one of the reasons that inspired me to write this new book on racism and anti-racism. Across this volume, I delve into the concepts of racism and anti-racism, exploring their use in analysing racial divisions, galvanising political movements and driving reforms in social policies.

This book is the product of more than a decade of research on racism and its many impacts. During my research, I have become aware that many books tend to focus solely on either racism or anti-racism. While a few authors (e.g., Bowser, 1995; Garland & Rowe, 2001; Hervik, 2019; Lentin, 2004) have attempted to engage with both racism and anti-racism, they often remain distinct fields of inquiry, at least in published works, both analytically and theoretically. This book emerged from a desire to bridge existing knowledge on racism and anti-racism, integrating them through critical analysis.

Primarily, this book aims to connect the racism and anti-racism scholarship, by critically examining them as interrelated rather than isolated subjects. I believe this approach offers a holistic and more comprehensive understanding of racism, acknowledging the efforts being made to dismantle it across many levels. Such a synthesis enables scholars and practitioners to engage with both topics within a single book rather than in separate documents.
In addition, this book adopts a comparative perspective, incorporating research findings and examples from different geographic contexts. While maintaining the view that racism, its distinct basis of ‘race’, has a western origin, I argue that it has evolved into a global phenomenon both historically and in the contemporary period. I illustrate this through global analyses and cross-national examples of racism in discourse and policy, as well as anti-racism in social policy and political action.

Methodologically, this book draws on my interdisciplinary research, extended to global audience. The conceptual framework for understanding racism as discussed across the chapters draws on a range of cross-disciplinary theories, encompassing sociology, political science, social psychology and economics. This incorporates anti-racism policy and practice at both micro and macro levels, with each chapter engaging in interdisciplinary contemporary theoretical debates.

This book is equally divided into two parts and commences with a comprehensive Introduction. Each chapter is cross-referenced with the preceding chapters to maintain a coherent narrative flow. Each chapter attempts to provide a critical analysis of the thematic topic covered, linked by introductory and concluding sections. Some chapters include tables and figures to succinctly summarise the key conceptual and analytical discussions.

The first part, consisting of five chapters, focuses on racism as the main subject. This part details the notion of ‘racisms’, to incorporate new manifestations of racism that have become central to contemporary research. It also engages with the intersectional nature of structural inequities involving race, gender, class hierarchies and exclusionary nationalism. Additionally, it provides a comparative analysis of how racism manifests in diverse geographic contexts, exploring its various expressions, forms and intersections.

The second part of this book, also comprising five chapters, focuses on anti-racism concepts, struggles and approaches. It engages with anti-racism as an everyday practice, strategy and policy, explores the history of anti-racism in political mobilisations and considers various anti-racism approaches including a holistic anti-racism perspective. Furthermore, this part critically evaluates the challenges confronting anti-racism efforts, and offers directions for an anti-racist future, proposing a framework for effective anti-racist policy and practice.

By synthesising existing racism and anti-racism scholarship, I hope this book will elucidate and stimulate robust debates on the complexities and enduring roles of race, racism and anti-racism in contemporary societies. This book incorporates a wide range of perspectives on the thematic topics covered, drawing from research across various ideological views. It is my hope that this volume will serve as a valuable introductory resource for anyone interested in in-depth study of such an important topic. I also aspire for this work to contribute to future research that bridges the scholarship on racism and anti-racism.

Amanuel Elias
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References

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