

Panel 1: Roots of Far-Right Extremism

Title: Institutional legacies of white supremacies in South Africa

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Universities in South Africa were historically established as sites for expanding cultural westernization as well as legitimizing the colonial project. This legacy lives on in the types of knowledges that are produced in South African universities and in the everyday experiences of staff and students. Nevertheless, it is also from within university spaces that some of the most critical voices and movements against racism and the apartheid regime have emerged. This paper thus explores the impact of institutional racism in a historically white South African University and the possibilities for resistance and change. I highlight how people's everyday lives are affected by white supremacist ideals at different levels (hegemonic, structural, disciplinary, relational) and how, through innovative forms of contestation and resistance, possibilities for change and transformation can emerge. I will illustrate these examples through the results of Photovoice research projects with black students at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the experience of the UCT Black Academic Caucus, an organization of black scholars advocating for change in the institution.