

# Abstracts

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## **Ethnocentric reactions in the Netherlands at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

In this contribution we provide an overview of theoretical-empirical research of the past decades in the Netherlands regarding ethnocentric reactions: a general term to capture the multitude of reactions of the indigenous Dutch majority to the presence of ethnic minorities. We distinguish different scientific questions, like cross-sectional and longitudinal descriptive questions, but also explanatory and cross-cultural and comparative questions. We provide wider theoretical frameworks and report on the empirical findings, predominantly based on large-scale (repeated or cross-national) representative surveys. Eventually, we relate these findings to governmental policies as well as to the contemporary political situation.

*Justus Veenman*

## **Labour market discrimination: The results of Dutch empirical research**

Besides being an economic allocation mechanism, the labour market is a social distribution mechanism that assigns individuals to differently valued social positions. Labour market selection therefore implies social inequality. Whether this selection is also based on criteria such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion or sexual inclination, is an important as well as a very touchy question. This article's central issue concerns discrimination on ethnicity in the Dutch labour market. Special attention is given to the job chances, promotion and wages of migrants. It appears that their job chances and promotion are indeed influenced by discrimination, but to a declining degree. Their wages are not directly, but indirectly affected by labour market discrimination. Economic and sociological theories are used to explain the existence of labour market discrimination on ethnicity. Partly based on these theories, the prognosis is that discrimination on ethnicity will further decrease. This is also due to labour market shortages as a consequence of an ageing popula-

tion. Furthermore, the Netherlands increasingly have the characteristics of a meritocracy in which there is hardly any place for discrimination.

**Talja Blokland**

**'Good neighbours mind their own business':  
Integration, racist repertoires and antiracism in  
neighbourhoods**

Integration in inner city neighbourhoods is usually understood as a social and cultural issue, in which a rhetoric of willing or unwilling individuals predominates. First native residents did not want the migrants, now the migrants are said to be unwilling to integrate. This article uses empirical data from a Rotterdam inner city neighbourhood to argue, that the causes of failing integration policy in urban neighbourhoods should not be sought in unwilling individuals or policy that has been too soft, but in the very assumptions of the policy programs. Both the conflict hypotheses and the contact hypotheses on which such policy is based do not take into account sufficiently the various contexts in which residents construct very diverse racist repertoires.

**Bowen Paulle**

**The importance of race and ethnicity:  
Perspectives on segregation, desegregation and  
redefining ethnicity on a 'blackschool' in the  
southeast part of Amsterdam**

The forces pushing for school desegregation in the Netherlands are coalescing. Should race and ethnicity remain central to these discussions? This paper begins by addressing some of the most important arguments that race should no longer be the main concern in this area. Then the paper explores some of the main arguments for keeping race central to these discussions. Finally the paper uses first hand ethnographic research in a 'black' school in Amsterdam to illustrate what will be termed 'ethnicity re-defining processes'. The paper concludes that an adequate investigation into this question requires balancing all of the perspectives addressed in this study.

**Dienke Hondius**

**Maximalists, minimalists and abolitionists:  
Definitions of racism and their consequences**

Review article of: George Fredrickson, *Racism – A Short History* (2002), Paul Gilroy, *Against Race. Imagining Political Culture beyond the Color Line* (2000); David Theo Goldberg, *The Racial State* (2002); Vron Ware and Les Back, *Out of Whiteness: Color, Politics, and Culture* (2002); Howard Winant, *The World is a Ghetto - Race and Democracy Since World War II* (2001). The end of the racist regimes such as Nazism, racial segregation in the United States, and Apartheid, as well as the widespread anti-racist norm have not yet resulted in a victory over racism. The phenomenon endures, in more or less veiled forms. In this article I distinguish and discuss three types of racism studies: maximalists ('racism is everywhere'), minimalists ('racism is exceptional') and new abolitionists ('racism must and can be overthrown'). The merge of overt, violent racism on the one hand, and of institutional and structural racism on the other hand has become accepted over the course of several years. However, this consensus has made racism and anti-Semitism into a kind of sum total phenomena, which has not been beneficial for the clarity of the argument. The minimalists, in particular George Fredrickson, have reacted to this widening and broadening trend with a sharp reducing definition of racism. The new abolitionists acknowledge racism as a wide phenomenon, but stand out in their political analysis and their radical goal: the necessary and possible banning of racism in all its forms.