

Biopolitics and Race in the Age of a Global Pandemic: Interactions and Transformations

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Abstract : Biopolitical theory, which was first developed by Michel Foucault, takes into consideration the administration of life by implying a style of government based on the regulation of populations as its subject. The intensification of the #BlackLivesMatter movement and popular outcries against racial discrimination in the US health system have prompted us to reconsider the relationship between biopolitics and race in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on works by Foucault, Achille Mbembe and Nicholas Mirzoeff that transcend the boundaries of poststructuralism, critical theory and postcolonial studies, the paper suggests that the global pandemic has highlighted new aspects of the interplay between biopower and race by encouraging the search for scapegoats, deepening the structural racial inequality, and thus producing necropolitical regimes of exclusion.

Keywords : biopolitics, biopower, necropolitics, pandemic, race

Conference Title : ICBBG 2022 : International Conference on Biopolitics and Biopolitical Governmentality

Conference Location : Lisbon, Portugal

Conference Dates : April 14-15, 2022