

## RACISM STARTS HERE...

Just a normal Tuesday afternoon at the C-tower of the Philosophical Faculty. A normal seminar in medieval history, usually peaceful, deeply woven into the cocoon of apolitical science.

Then comes a half-sentence with a distinct content of racist discrimination – not in its subtle, daily form, but as franc racism.

Immediately afterwards, *Prof. Andreas Meyer* corrects himself because of this lack of „political correctness“, and, untroubled, carries on with his explanations about medieval monarch dynasties. The show must go on.

Maybe in this moment, some of the audience only halfway realized that this was more than an embarrassing outfall out of the alleged dictate of political correctness that can be gotten rid of with a short „sorry“ - that it was in fact blatant racism. Not only the use of the „n-word“ was so discriminating here, but also the implied notion that a member of the alleged „primitive people“ could never hold a position of power in the supposed „civilised western world“.

Behind this is not a short moment of unthoughtfulness, but a deeply internalized, inhumane ideology: Racism, through which humans are subdued to attributions, devaluation, restraints and violence. Racism that is over and over tolerated, rewarded, flatly denied but paid for at this and other universities.

## ...IT'S EVERYWHERE...

Many at first sure feel speechless, bewildered, frightened of direct confrontation with profs and fellow students, or they don't know where to start with their criticism when confronted with racism, sexism, calssism, homophobia etc. in seminars and elsewhere. 'Here at the university we're all really reflected and aware, things like that don't happen here...“

On the contrary: university is a part, as well as an expression and a producer of the ruling society and was never a space free of discrimination. Racial ideology, nationalism, colonialism etc. have

always been deeply rooted in many sciences, were even formulated and legitimized by them, and so they live on, openly or concealed, in scientific terminology and method, but also in the academic brains.

So what's there to do if it happens again and again?

## ... BUT WE CAN FIGHT IT HERE!

### Speak up!

Criticise your profs, teachers and fellow students when they talk that kind of rubbish! Try not to leave racist and other inhumane slogans without a comment. But also be aware of your own limits – sometimes there's no alternative but to leave! Share with others what you'e experienced and make it public,

e.g. on: [www.akuniwatch.wordpress.com](http://www.akuniwatch.wordpress.com)

### Gang up!

Join forces when you experience discrimination at the university, and think about what you can do together. Complain to your Fachschaft, to the AstA, the women's representative or other posts. Support people who are affected by the particular form of discrimination – ask them what you can do to help!

Profs are generally more powerful, but still we can make sure that a discriminating ideology can lead to problems and is thereby held at bay – be creative, for instance give them a coming-out as the self-confident racist that they are.

### Rise Up!

Let's make university a space that critically deals with racism and other forms of oppression, to finally deconstruct them! That means, especially for the white majority at the university, to reflect the racisms within each of us.

Let's call racism by the name and fight it on all levels!

Critics, remarks, name-calling and suggestions to: [4dissident@gmx.de](mailto:4dissident@gmx.de)

