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Forms of racism and classism in the mestized society of Peru in the 21st century
Reflections of migrants and locals

Dissertation

Abstract

In my dissertation, I deal with the forms of racism and classism in Peruvian society of the 21st century, from the perspective of migrants who come to the country from the global North and from the perspective of local residents, while both groups are forming an interconnected network of contacts. I am observing how are racism and classism, which I consider to be the consequences of colonial and post-colonial development, reflected in the everyday experiences of my informants, but also performed in the public space and in the media, primarily in the form of advertisements, billboards and television programs. In the analysis, I also include my own autoethnographic observations during 10 years of visits to the field of the Peruvian capital, Lima. This city represents the key specifics important to my data creation. In the context of the whole of Peru, it is the most hierarchically and class-organized place on the principles of local elites. Racism and classism are most prominently socially reproduced and performed here, especially in its richest districts. I necessarily also focused on the historical roots of these social phenomena, which are reflected from the colonial period of the 16th century to the present day. Racism and classism form a significant part of the self-concept of residents. At the same time, foreigners are confronted with these phenomena, who view them very critically, and for whom they create ambivalent frameworks of privilege and discrimination.

Key words: Peru; Lima; racism; classism; discrimination; colonialism; migration; privileged migration