



Call for Contributions to a Special Issue on Race and Multimodality

Special Issue of the journal *Multimodality and Society* on Race and Multimodality

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As a social and affective force, race appears in multiple forms and manifestations (Alcoff, 2006; Saldanha, 2007; Sekimoto & Brown, 2020; Stoevers, 2016). Race constitutes the relations of power enmeshed in multiple spheres and intersecting modes of social engagement (Ahmed, 2012; Browne, 2015; Kondo, 2018; Sullivan, 2015). This special issue explores the intersection between race and multimodality to provide multimodal accounts of how race emerges, travels, sticks, and morphs to assume its social presence, meaning, and power in various contexts.

This special issue approaches multimodality through “a wide variety of visual, aural, embodied, material, and spatial aspects of interaction and environments, and insight on the relationships between these” (Jewitt, Adami, Archer, Björkvall, Lim, 2021, pp. 3-4). We encourage contributors to consider issues of race and racism with a focus on the relationships and interactions between bodily, environmental, technological, sensorial, and material modes of communication.

How is race a multimodal construction? How is race constructed and reproduced within the multimodal machinery of modern societies? How does multimodal scholarship contribute not only to the understanding of the communicative materialization of race, but on how to intervene and fight against racism as well? Multimodality as a field of inquiry presents a possibility of calling attention to—and drawing presence of—elements and dimensions that are unnamed or unrecognized, including the experiences of racism and the subtle and habitual ways of marginalization and oppression. The interdisciplinary and international nature of multimodal scholarship presents a promise of unveiling how racism functions in everyday life beyond the conventional views of race as purely visual and symbolic.

We invite a broad range of innovative submissions that engage the possibilities offered by multimodal perspectives. Contributors may approach multimodality from a variety of theoretical and methodological traditions. Possible topics may include, but not limited to:

- The role of multimodality in constructing race and communicating racism
- Multimodal analysis of racialized experiences, racism, or being a racial minority
- Multimodality and anti-racism/anti-racist pedagogy
- Race as situated in the somatic work of sensing and embodiment
- Sensations, feelings, and affect of historically marginalized populations
- Critiquing, expanding, or advancing multimodal theories, concepts, and methods in the context of critical race studies
- Sensory ethnography on race
- Multimodal articulations of racialized experiences via sound, image, dance, protest, etc.
- Race as it intersects with spatiality or temporality
- Racialized touch, pain, sound, movement, or taste
- Racialized design and technology
- Multimodal construction of racist discourses, stereotypes, or hate speech
- Multimodality and whiteness or coloniality
- Multimodality and experience of alterity or otherness
- More-than-representational approaches to race and racism

Submissions can be in one of three different format types: Original Research Papers, with a theoretical, methodological and/or empirical focus (6-8,000 words); Multimodal Sensations, short innovative multimodal pieces that extend the notion of the visual essays (4-8 pages); or Practitioner Reflections which engage with the ideas, practices and concerns of practitioners (e.g. designers, activists, artists, educators, performers) working in fields where multimodal tools and practices are central (1-2,000 words).

Initial expressions of interest in the form of an abstract of 250-500 words and a short author bio should be sent to both sachi.sekimoto@mnsu.edu and christopher.brown@mnsu.edu by September 30, 2022.

Papers will initially be reviewed by the editors, and if accepted for review, they will go through double blind peer-review. Author guidance is available on the journal information page of the Multimodality and Society website <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/MAS>