



The Trouble with (Racial) Capitalism



ANNOTATION:

In a recent essay, Loïc Wacquant asks whether the term, racial capitalism, is 'a conceptual solution or a conceptual problem'. His answer is that racial capitalism has no place in a properly defined and understood social science. In our response to his piece, John Holmwood and I set out some of the limitations of Wacquant's analysis and, at the same time, discuss other difficulties of the idea of racial capitalism. These difficulties, we suggest, are associated with an absence common to Wacquant and the major proponents of racial capitalism; namely, a failure to reckon systematically with the ways in which modern capitalism arises and develops within the global structures of European colonialism.

SOURCES:

Loïc's original essay: Wacquant L. The Trap of "Racial Capitalism." *European Journal of Sociology*. 2023;64(2):153-162. doi:10.1017/S0003975623000334. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-journal-of-sociology-archives-europeennes-de-sociologie/article/abs/trap-of-racial-capitalism/E069EE9503110801EE19E8694E047B9>

Gurminder and John's comments: Bhambra GK, Holmwood J. The Trap of "Capitalism", Racial or Otherwise. *European Journal of Sociology*. 2023;64(2):163-172. doi:10.1017/S000397562300036X - <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-journal-of-sociology-archives-europeennes-de-sociologie/article/abs/racial-capitalism-racial-or-otherwise/59DC17C050AE9FC4FB73BBE5682473D>

Loïc's answer to Gurminder and John: Wacquant L. Racial Capitalism Decoupled: A Rejoinder and Reformulation. *European Journal of Sociology*. 2023;64(2):183-193. doi:10.1017/S0003975623000346 - <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-journal-of-sociology-archives-europeennes-de-sociologie/article/abs/racial-capitalism-decoupled-a-rejoinder-and-reformulation/8C7D8EA87C0F93A071ADE5F705DD7647>



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She has been President of the British Sociological Association and Trustee of the Sociological Review Foundation.

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