

# Toward A Concept of Racial Capitalism

Graduate Student Conference  
University of Chicago  
May 18, 2018

## Call for Papers

Recent political and legal developments in the United States and around the world have sparked renewed interest in the histories and theories of racial capitalism. Racial capitalism, as an analytic, understands capitalist economies and racial hierarchies as interlocking and struggles for economic, racial and gender justice as mutually intertwined. However, there is much uncertainty about the theoretical framework that is best suited to thinking about the role of race and gender in capitalist economies. The Race and Capitalism Project has sought to advance a national conversation on developing and updating theories of racial capitalism for the 21st century. Key questions that have emerged from the project are: How do we narrate the present moment and its histories from the standpoint of racial capitalism? Are we confronting a moment of rupture or is the history of racial capitalism marked by a deep continuity? Relatedly, how should we judge popular descriptors for the contemporary political economy, such as neoliberalism, financialization or the new economy from the perspective of racial capitalism? Do they challenge our reliance on existing theories of racial capitalism, or do they obscure the historical continuities that these theories uncover?

For the first Race and Capitalism Graduate Student Conference, we invite submissions from graduate students working on these questions and on topics related more broadly to racial capitalism. We are particularly interested in work that discusses theories of racial capitalism (either with regards to their intellectual history or with regards to their contemporary fit and theoretical coherence), the gendered aspects of racial capitalism, racial capitalism & migration and racial capitalism & the rise of finance. The conference will also provide a chance for graduate students working on racial capitalism to connect with each other and the national Race and Capitalism Project.

*The deadline to submit an abstract is March 2nd, 2018.* To apply, please submit an abstract of 500 words or less, and complete the form below.

## How to Apply

Apply and submit abstracts of  
500 words or less by  
March 2nd, 2018.

To apply, complete the form below:

<https://goo.gl/forms/ooGMCZWEppE53KuR2>