



PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 22.05.2023

Elite Capture. How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics (And Everything Else)

Book Presentation with Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò

Monday, 5 June 2023, 18:00 CET

Online via ZOOM

“Identity politics” is everywhere, polarizing discourse from the campaign trail to the classroom and amplifying antagonisms in the media, both online and off. But the compulsively referenced phrase bears little resemblance to the concept as first introduced by the radical Black feminist Combahee River Collective. While the Collective articulated a political viewpoint grounded in their own position as Black lesbians with the explicit aim of building solidarity across lines of difference, identity politics is now frequently weaponized as a means of closing ranks around ever-narrower conceptions of group interests.

But the trouble, Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò deftly argues, is not with identity politics itself. Through a substantive engagement with the global Black radical tradition and a critical understanding of racial capitalism, Táíwò identifies the process by which a radical concept can be stripped of its political substance and liberatory potential by becoming the victim of elite capture — deployed by political, social, and economic elites in the service of their own interests. *(Text: Haymarket Books)*

SPEAKER

Olúfẹ́mi O. Táíwò is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of California Los Angeles. He has published in academic journals ranging from *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *One Earth*, *Philosophical Papers*, and the American Philosophical Association Newsletter *Philosophy and the Black Experience*.

MODERATOR

Samir Sellami, KWI

PRESS CONTACT

Helena Rose (KWI) | Miriam Wienhold (KWI)

presse@kwi-nrw.de

www.kulturwissenschaften.de

PARTICIPATION

To participate on Zoom follow [this link](#) at the relevant time.

ORGANISER

An event organised by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen

MORE INFORMATION

[The event on the KWI website](#)

About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focuses on the following areas: “cultural studies of science and science policy making”, “sociology of literature and culture”, “science communication”, “visual literacy” and a “teaching lab”. Projects in the established research field “culture of communication”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

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PRESS CONTACT

Helena Rose (KWI) | Miriam Wienhold (KWI)

presse@kwi-nrw.de

www.kulturwissenschaften.de