

Statement by the Department of International Relations, University of Sussex

A statement following the (social) media and email campaign after the publication of *Is Securitization Theory Racist? Civilizationism, methodological whiteness, and antiblack thought in the Copenhagen School* and the rejoinder *Racism and responsibility – The critical limits of deepfake methodology in security studies: A reply to Howell and Richter-Montpetit*.

As a department,

we express deep concern with:

- attacks against Alison Howell and Melanie Richter-Montpetit's personal and scholarly integrity in social and other media;
- pressure being exerted on peer-reviewed journals to retract articles on race, colonialism and Eurocentrism in IR, or other areas, and to implement special review processes for such scholarship;
- implications of such backlash for future scholarship that engages with racism and Eurocentrism in International Relations and other disciplines.

and affirm:

1. Scholarship on race and colonialism is an integral and long-standing part of International Relations, and social science scholarship more broadly, and ought to be reviewed in accordance to stated peer-review processes, without additional stipulations;
2. Bullying in any form is unacceptable;
3. Support for scholars working in the areas of race, colonialism and Eurocentrism who may be affected by the backlash