Unit Description

What makes people different? Do collective identities represent biological realities? What is 'culture'? Is ethnicity merely a cipher for 'race'? This unit examines the historical development of the idea of 'race', and the associated concepts of 'culture' and 'ethnicity', with a view to understanding the ways in which ideas about physical difference have developed since the mid-nineteenth century. The focus is upon the history of these ideas, from the emergence of a language of race, through the rise of social Darwinism and eugenics in the latter nineteenth-century, before turning to examine two parallel concepts - 'culture' and 'ethnicity' - that have emerged as ways of distinguishing human difference in the wake of the 'retreat' from race in the post-1945 era. The seminar topics will promote reflection on the relationships between these concepts, and the ways in which 'difference' has become a fundamental factor in the understanding of humanity.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
1 hour intro to unit + 5 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3000 word essay (%?), 1 x 24 hour take home exam (%?)

Essential Reading –
J. Donald & A. Rattansi (eds), *Race, Culture and Difference* (1992)

Further Information

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