

## **Course overview**

Our society as well as the world is structured by unequal power relations, privileging some and marginalising others. In the context of development studies in particular the unequal power relations resulting from colonialism have to be taken into account. This course will offer an introduction to critical theories looking at unequal power relations. It will start with a brief introduction to postcolonial theory focusing primarily on the construction of the Other. It will then put the focus on introducing some approaches of critical racism theory, showing how racism structures our societies and how it is stabilised through norms. On this basis we will look at the privileged positions in unequal power relations, in particular in racism and apply this to the context of the Czech Republic as well as development studies. Finally, we will look at how different power relations are interwoven, looking in particular at the interdependencies between racism, postcolonialism and gender.

The course will offer brief introductions to critical theories in order to illustrate the basic approaches. The meetings will be organised interactively. The students will be asked to apply the theories on the basis of the course literature both to their life in the Czech Republic and to development studies.

Each text of the course literature should be presented in a visualised input of 10 to 15 minutes by a group of students. The presentation should include the main hypothesis of the text as well as the questions the students have on the text and some ideas on how the ideas could be applied to their lives and development studies. The presentations should be sent to the lecturer by the Monday before the presentation and will be discussed with the lecturer on the Wednesday before the presentation.