



Framing the Other and An Uneasy Embrace

A Cluster Conversation with
Farish Noor and Shobana Shankar

This round table brings two books into conversation with each other: Farish Noor's *Framing the Other* (2019) and Shobana Shankar's *An Uneasy Embrace* (2021).

Noor's book undertakes critical readings of 7 works on Southeast Asia written by British colonial agents – notably all men. These works entailed collecting data meant to provide information which contributed to later developments of British colonies in the geophysical region that came to be known as Southeast Asia. The central thesis in Noor's book underscores the process by which Southeast Asia was constructed through British colonial (masculine) perspectives, using the logic of racialised colonial capitalism in the 19th century. The works which Noor discusses as discursive inventions, demonstrate how Southeast Asian peoples were (and to some extent still are) framed in Othering terms, such as the „lazy native“, the „uncivilised headhunter“ or the „violent Asiatic pirate“ (Noor, 2019: 15).

Shankar's book focuses on how framings of the Other took place among Africans and Indians, despite moments of solidarity and common struggles against British and French colonial regimes. Shankar's work inquires into the significant operations of race and racism in the ways Africans and Indians construct and perceive differences amongst themselves. *An Uneasy Embrace* interrogates the notion that racist ideas and practices are territorially bound, that race thinking has a singular origin.

The conversations envisioned in this round table interrogate the complicated modes of belonging and citizenship which take place against the hegemonic epistemic backdrop of scientific racism and racialised capitalism which served to exacerbate extant (possibly indigenous?) framings of and relations with the cultural racialised Other.

22 June 2023, 2pm-4pm, RWII, S58

Zoom Link available after request britta.frede@uni-bayreuth.de

Organization & Moderation:

Britta Frede (University of Bayreuth)
Christine Vogt-William (University of Bayreuth)

Roundtable Participants:

Shobana Shankar (Stony Brook University, USA)
Farish Noor (University Malaya, Malaysia)
Rüdiger Seesemann, (University of Bayreuth)
Jochen Linglbach, (University of Bayreuth)