



Ariadne Grant Skills Week 2021 - Funding with a Racial Justice Lens

About this event:

Calls for racial justice are growing stronger in all parts of the globe, and activist movements have generated new reflections on issues such as institutional discrimination and police violence. The death of George Floyd at the hands of the police in the US sparked protests worldwide but also generated debate about how racism manifests in different contexts. In Europe and the UK, states are being confronted with their colonial histories and encouraged to examine the legacies of colonialism in contemporary society. What does the call for greater racial justice mean for European social change and human rights funders? How can funders help promote racial justice, even if they don't have a dedicated funding programme on racial issues?

In this Grant Skills Week on funding with a racial justice lens, we will examine what 'structural or systemic racism' means and how that concept might be relevant to your work, regardless of the primary focus of your funding, and we will explore the particular challenges facing anti-racism work in Europe. During the event, you will have the opportunity to hear from leading racial justice campaigners from across Europe and the UK and connect with peers who have been grappling with similar questions.

This event is jointly organised by [Ariadne](#) and the [Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity](#) (PRE).

Session 1: Understanding racism in the European context

Wednesday 23 June

13:30 - 15:00 BST | 14:30 - 16:00 CEST | 8:30 - 10:00 EST

This opening session will provide core components of [grantmaking with a racial justice lens](#) and give participants an overview of racism and the particular challenges to addressing it in the European context. Lori Villarosa, of the [Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity](#), will facilitate discussions among racial justice leaders and grantmakers in an interactive session to ground the series with insight into the manifestations of structural racism in Europe and the UK. Recognizing that analysing data is such a core component of racial equity and justice, the session will explore both the benefits and challenges of collecting and using equality data for advocacy purposes in the European context. Finally, it will look at the potential role of foundations in shifting conversation around these issues.

Speakers:

- Daniel Gyamerah, Chairman, Each One Teach One, Division Lead, Citizens For Europe
- Karen Taylor, Director of Advocacy, Each One Teach One, Chair, European Network Against Racism

- Halima Begum, Chief Executive, Runnymede Trust

Session 2: Supporting organisations led by people with lived experience of racism

Wednesday 23 June

15:30 - 17:00 BST | 16:30 - 18:00 CEST | 10:30 - 12:00 EST

As we read in the [Human Rights Grantmaking Principles](#): “Human rights funders recognize that individuals and communities experiencing injustice should lead in articulating the change they wish to see and the paths taken towards its realization.” Unfortunately, as noted in the [Booksa Paper](#), funders themselves often play a role in perpetuating structural racism, and their own practices need to be examined. It is not only a matter of legitimacy and shifting power where its unbalance has caused harm, but also a matter of both short-term and long-term impact as groups affected by racism best know their own needs, contexts, and possibilities for change. Through an exchange with speakers from various POC-led organisations across Europe, this session will reflect on how funders can better support minority-led groups while applying an intersectional lens to their work and strengthening solidarity across movements.

Speakers:

- Mohammed Badran, Founder, Syrian Volunteers in the Netherlands
 - Sarah Chander, Co-founder, Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice
 - Mitchell Esajas, Co-founder, The Black Archives and of New Urban Collective
 - Meral El, Executive Director, neue deutsche organisationen
 - Yvonne Field, Founder and CEO, Ubele
 - Đorđe Jovanović, President, European Roma Rights Center
 - Sarah Zouak, Co-Founder & Director, Lallab
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Session 3: Responding to resistance

Thursday 24 June

14:00 - 16:00 BST | 15:00 - 17:00 CEST | 10:00 - 12:00 EST

This closing session aims to allow space for an honest conversation among funders addressing internal and external resistance to racial justice grantmaking. We will exchange insights and experiences on how to talk about these sensitive and at times divisive issues (which have been framed even as “cultural wars”). What messages resonate with internal and external audiences? What are the points of resistance, and how can we deconstruct them? How can we be brave advocates for change while bringing along others?

Speakers:

- Claudia Bollwinkel, Senior Programme Advisor, Dreilinden
 - Sümeyye Ekmekci, Programme Officer, Democracy and Media Foundation
 - Ali Khan, Senior Portfolio Analyst (OSIFE), Open Society Foundations
 - Celia McKeon, Chief Executive, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
 - Fiona Montagud O'Curry, Director of Programs, Calala Fondo de Mujeres
 - Jenny Oppenheimer, Action Inquiry Manager, Lankelly Chase
 - Ali Torabi, Rights and Justice Program Manager, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
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Convenors/Facilitators:

- Julie Broome, Director, Ariadne
- Debora Guidetti, Senior European Programme Manager, Ariadne
- Lori Villarosa, Founder and Executive Director, Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity